

Gov't to resume peace talks with NDF in Norway

Katrina shifts Americans' attention from Iraq war

Accused in TV director's fatal shooting recants

Gov't to sell up to \$1B in bonds at int'l market

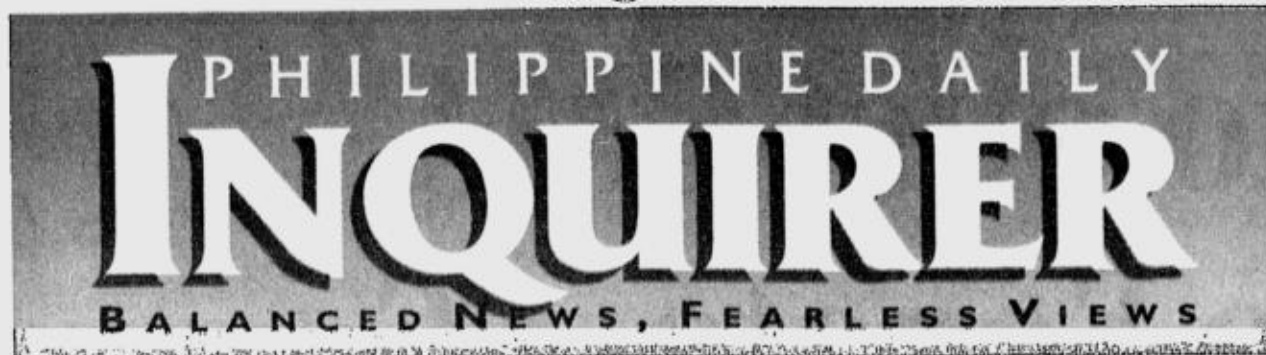


Defensor ordered to reopen conciliation talks with Estrada

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

A DAY AFTER THE HOUSE JUNKED THE impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang is eager to revive efforts to reconcile with opposition forces, especially ousted President Joseph Estrada.

DEFENSOR/A9



Where are they now? Imee Marcos, 2 others

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PARTICULARLY Ilocos Sur Rep. Imee Marcos. She was one of the most vocal and high-profile signatories to the impeachment complaint, that is, until the day of reckoning.

One of those also missed, Caloocan City Rep. WHERE/A7

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P18

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'Resignation still option for GMA'

Incoming CBCP head asserts position



By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo may have survived an impeachment attempt, but ranking members of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday indicated that her governance would be far from smooth.

In Iloilo City, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, incoming president of the 85-member CBCP, said the call for Ms Arroyo's resignation as one of the options it suggested in July was still in place. He said the dismissal of the impeachment complaints was "not the end of the case."

"The search for truth must go on," the prelate told reporters. "Did the President cheat or not? Was the 2004 election rigged in her favor or not? [The impeachment proceedings] did not resolve [the questions]."

Lagdameo pointed out that while the pro-Arroyo lawmakers in the House had claimed that they were speaking from their conscience and voting according to the wishes of their constituents, they merely focused on "technicalities and procedures."

He said it was Ms Arroyo who held the key to arriving at the truth: "The President is the issue. What is the truth that [she] is holding on to, what is the truth that [she] is trying to hide? That is what we would like to know. Only she, in her conscience, can tell."

Lagdameo said the unresolved questions and allegations against Ms Arroyo would hound her when she addresses the United Nations Security Council next week.

"The people are looking for a RESIGNATION/A8

THE TOUGH GETS GOING. Susan Roces delivers a fighting speech before thousands of protesters at the People Power Monument along Edsa on Wednesday afternoon. "I am with you," she says, "whatever you want to do."

REUTERS

It's not over, mass actions on; Palace appeals to two widows

By DJ Yap

OPPOSITIONS OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo took to the streets yesterday, a day after they failed in Congress to impeach her, but the turnout was nowhere near the people power revolts that ousted two Philippine presidents.

Carrying banners and chanting "Gloria resign," the protesters from a broad coalition of anti-Arroyo groups marched from several points in the capital and con-

verged at the People Power Monument on Edsa.

Organizers put the crowd at the monument at 15,000 but police said there were no more than 6,000 people.

Around 2,000 members of the September 7 Movement massed at the University of Santo Tomas and another 500 from the People's Movement Against Poverty assembled at Santolan.

Among the protesters at the monument were left-wing militants, activist priests, politicians

and opposition lawmakers, including Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Liza Masa, Ronaldo Zamora and Satur Ocampo.

Susan Roces, appearing before the gathering after a 30-minute downpour, delivered a brief fighting speech in Filipino, accusing the President of "trampling" the people's vote and covering up the cheating.

"I am with you, whatever you want to do," said the wid-

IT'S NOT/A6



THAT CERTAIN SMILE President Arroyo beams in her first public appearance after the majority members of the House of Representatives voted out the three impeachment complaints filed against her.

Palace: Not a costly win, just lotsa' pork

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY insisted it neither spent a single centavo nor gave any special accommodation to sway members of the House of Representatives who quashed the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday.

Contrary to earlier reports, there was no special accommodation for deposed President Joseph Estrada who said that it was not true that six congressmen closely identified with him failed to register votes in support of Ms Arroyo's impeachment in

exchange for a favorable Sandiganbayan decision on his petition for bail.

Estrada said there was no such reconciliation or compromise deal.

"There are only three members of the PMP in the House," Estrada said, referring to Bulacan Rep. Pedro Pancho, Maguindanao Rep. Bai Sendig Dilangalen and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, leader of the impeachment team.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that if at all, the only concession the President gave the lawmakers was to facilitate the release of pork barrel funds.

PALACE/A6

Businessmen: Political crisis not yet a closed book

By Daxim L. Lucas, Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS communities expect local markets to remain volatile in the near term while companies will likely stay on the sidelines after the

House of Representatives shot down an impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The benchmark stock index rose a mere 0.62 point yesterday from its low of 1,897.33 on turnover of P848.2 million.

The peso ended stronger at

56.07 to the dollar from the previous day's close of P56.25, but not before experiencing seesaw trading over a 20-centavo band. Trading activity was unusually heavy, with \$570.6 million changing hands.

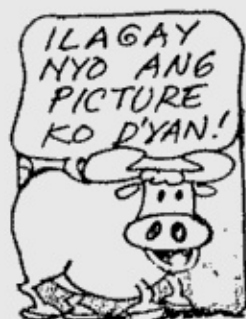
Talk that the Senate may continue its investigation of the Pres-

ident's alleged involvement in illegal gambling and election fraud is also worrying the market, according to Oliver Plana, head of sales at brokerage firm Asiasec Equities Inc.

"As far as the impeachment proceedings are concerned, there is no problem over the next 12 months.

But as far as the "political intramurals" are concerned, it is not yet a closed book. This may figure prominently on economic reforms. We see the government facing difficulty in implementing the VAT and this is already overtaken by high oil prices," Plana said.

BUSINESSMEN/A8



Endangered species placed on wanted list

By Blanche S. Rivera

DON'T BE SURPRISED TO see pictures of boars, lizards, snakes and turtles next to mug shots of criminals in posters of law enforcement agencies soon. They're all on the most wanted list.

ENDANGERED/A8

Swift dismissal agitated soldiers, warns Biazon

By TJ Burgonio and Luige A. del Puerto

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration that the swift dismissal of the impeachment complaint against her had agitated a section of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said he received a call early yesterday from an officer. "They say that we are agitated because of what happened to the impeachment process. They are dismayed."

The former AFP chief of staff said the dismay stemmed from the perception that the constitu-

tional process of impeachment "was not allowed to work."

"This was borne by ... information going to the public that there were some maneuvers and manipulation done by Malacañang to kill the impeachment process even before it could reach its logical conclusion—being transmitted to the Senate and Senate constituting

itself as the impeachment court," he said.

Biazon said Malacañang should not ignore the disaffected soldiers, warning that the military had been a major factor in the overthrow of Presidents Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001.

The former general said he did not subscribe to the idea of mili-

tary officers participating in any way to resolve political conflicts. He described himself as an "institutionalist."

But Director General Arturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police called on his troops to remain loyal. "I would like to remind our police officers of my standing order for strict adher-

SWIFT/A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bohol	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laang	Partly Cloudy	Tagbisan	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Taytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Arena to oust GMA shifts to Senate, SC

By TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum

THE BALL IS NOW IN THE SENATE AND THE Supreme Court.

After the House allegedly 'railroaded' the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the daunting task of uncovering the truth behind the serious allegations of electoral fraud and corruption against her has now shifted to the Senate and the Supreme Court.

The Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs opens its inquiry today into the Aug. 17 botched raid on the safehouse of document analyst Segundo Tabayoyong in San Mateo, Rizal.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., committee chair, has invited Tabayoyong, officials of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which led the raid, to the hearing scheduled at 1 p.m. today.

At the Supreme Court, lawyers Oliver Lozano and Harry Roque are set to file today separate petitions questioning the legality of the House panel rules on impeachment.

"Since the matter involved is the unconstitutionality of the rules of

impeachment used by Datumanong's committee, we believe the SC can come in," Roque said in telephone interview with reporters covering the Supreme Court.

Petition refiled

Last Tuesday, lawyer Ernesto Francisco re-filed a petition questioning the constitutionality of the rules the House used in the impeachment proceedings.

"We are just putting the finishing touches in our petition. We would be filing it tomorrow," said Roque, who acted as counsel for opposition congressmen who filed the amended complaint.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., together with 14 other colleagues, filed a resolution seek-

ing an inquiry into what he called a "Gestapo-like" warrant-less raid on Tabayoyong's rented room.

Tabayoyong was commissioned by former Sen. Loren Legarda to examine supposedly "pre-fabricated" election returns used by the administration camp to cheat in last year's presidential vote.

Seized during the raid were boxes of election materials, among others, that were later returned to Legarda.

Villar invited as resource persons Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, Commodore Tirso Danga, deputy chief of staff for intelligence; CIDG director Chief Supt. Ricardo Daplat, and Supt. Wilben Mayor, head of the CIDG raiding team.

No definitive closure

Also invited were Local Government Secretary, Sixto Brillantes, counsel for Legarda; Romulo Macalintal, counsel for Vice President Noli de Castro, subject of a protest case filed by Legarda, and Tabayoyong's landlady Carmela Cabuhut.

Senators earlier said that some colleagues would investigate some of the issues raised against Ms Arroyo that had been left hanging after the House hastily dismissed the impeachment complaint.

"It's good that we're conduct-

ing investigations on these issues because there has been no definitive closure to these issues in the House," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

Congressmen voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to uphold the House justice committee's report junking all three impeachment complaints filed against the President.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he's also open on inquiry into the national security aspect of the wire-tapping scandal after Congress resumes sessions on Sept. 19 after a week-long recess.

Pimentel added that he would also ask Villar to resume hearings into "jueteng," which were suspended last month after anti-gambling advocate Archbishop Oscar Cruz had run out of witnesses.

"I will talk to him about jueteng. This has to resume," he said, noting that some people had volunteered to testify at the resumption of hearings.

Witnesses had earlier tagged Presidential son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo as beneficiaries of jueteng proceeds, but had vehemently denied this. *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Impeach endorser sues Dinky for libel

THE PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE who endorsed the original impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo has filed a one-peso libel suit against Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, the former Social Welfare secretary, for insinuating that his action was meant to help Ms Arroyo.

In his complaint, Alagad Rep. Rodante Marcoleta said that Soliman, in an Aug. 30 press conference, had linked him to alleged efforts by Malacañang to manipulate the impeachment proceedings by supporting an empty complaint.

At the press conference, Soliman recounted hearing a supposed conversation between Ms Arroyo and her political adviser Gabriel Claudio on June 27 in which the President had allegedly told Claudio to have someone endorse the impeachment complaint that lawyer Oliver Lozano had filed against her.

Soliman, who resigned and has joined the campaign to force the President out of office, quoted Claudio as saying that he would call Marcoleta, who later endorsed the complaint.

She said she realized the full import of the Lozano com-

plaint when the House justice committee opted to hear only the Lozano complaint and junk later versions.

Claudio and Marcoleta have both denied Soliman's allegations.

In a complaint that he filed before the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Marcoleta said Soliman's statement was "malicious and unfounded."

He said it was timed to coincide with the deliberations of the House justice committee that was then deciding which of the three impeachment complaints to consider.

He said Soliman's statement, which was carried by newspapers and television and radio news programs, showed a "malicious intention" to "sway public opinion away from the original complaint toward the amended complaint" of the opposition.

Soliman "could have revealed her allegations earlier" to destroy his reputation, as well as that of his party, Marcoleta said.

Considering the damage his reputation suffered because of Soliman's statements, the lawmaker said he was still only asking a "pittance" of P1.

DJ Yap

GMA pardons 65 aging convicts

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday made good her promise to rid the country's jails of elderly inmates, by granting conditional pardon to 65 of them.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the release of the 65 inmates, aged 70 years and above, was in line with the administration's policy to extend executive clemency to "deserving elderly inmates out of compassion and based on humanitarian grounds."

They were also released after considering some other factors and according to Ermita these include:

- Review of prison records wherein it is found that the inmate is serving a sentence by final judgment and there is reason in the light of the circumstances of the case, the crime committed, the sentence imposed and the number of years served;
- Opposition to the grant of pardon and
- Health condition.

Ermita said that the Palace had sent these release orders of these inmates to the Department of Justice on Monday.

But copies of the release orders transmitted by the Palace to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the Bureau of Corrections last Sept. 5 only listed the names of 52 inmates.

In this list of 52 inmates, two of them were women.

Last month, President Arroyo promised she would rid the country's jails not only of elderly inmates but also of child inmates. *Christine Avendaño*

Gov't, NDF to resume formal talks in Norway

GOVERNMENT PEACE NEGOTIATORS WILL resume formal peace talks with communist rebels in October and a nationwide ceasefire will take effect during the negotiations, officials announced yesterday.

The government and the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, agreed to resume negotiations after holding informal meetings in Norway in late August.

No specific dates were given for the talks to start.

The government said it would restore the immunity guarantees for 97 NDF negotiators which it suspended last Sept. 3.

Talks between the government and the communist insurgents have been stalled for a year because of the NDF's demand that the Philippine government have them removed

from the United States and European Union lists of "foreign terrorist organizations."

Last month after the NDF said they no longer wanted to talk peace with the Arroyo administration as the President faced a serious political crisis, the government suspended the safe conduct passes it issued to NDF peace negotiators.

NDF officials have since denied saying they would prefer to wait and talk with a new administration that would replace that of Ms Arroyo's.

The government statement said the two sides met from Aug. 28 to Aug. 30 in Oslo, through the mediation of Norway.

"The agreement to resume the formal negotiations was reached after a cordial exchange of letters between the parties," the statement said. *Christine Avendaño*

Palace ignores taipans' fight for control of Naia3

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WILL PROCEED WITH ITS plan to operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 itself, turning a deaf ear to overtures from the group that built it and another one that originally proposed it.

The plan is for the government to operate Naia 3 on its own while moving to resolve all the legal cases connected with the controversial project, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

Ermita said that regardless of the recent change in the ownership of Philippine International Air Terminals Co, the consortium that won the bid to build Naia 3, the government would pursue the cases it had filed against Piatco, its officers and partners regardless of the recent changes in its ownership.

He said that only after the legal cases are resolved would the government consider making a decision whether to continue operating Naia 3 or bid it out.

"That's the only time that we will talk to private parties interested in Naia 3," said Ermita.

He said the government would pay the Naia 3 contractor \$10 million to complete the terminal in time for its projected opening later this year or early next year.

Piatco recently moved to regain control of the shuttered terminal, spurred by the entry of a new investor, publisher Emilio Yap whose Manila Hotel Corp. bought out the interests in Piatco of German airport operator Fraport and other foreign investors.

But ethnic Chinese tycoon Lucio Tan, whose Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. was the original proponent of the Naia 3 project, has also pressed his claim over the terminal, offering to pay the government \$300 million for the terminal.

Ermita said the government cannot enter into any negotiations with either Yap or Tan

because it has yet to complete the expropriation of the property following a 2004 Supreme Court decision voiding Piatco's contract to build the terminal.

He said Piatco could not claim that it has first crack on Naia 3 just because of the ownership change.

"It's hard to depend on the action of others knowing they have their own interest. We just have to move on with what we are doing right now," Ermita said.

"I think that [the ownership change] is just a business strategy. [Piatco] is jumping the gun on the transaction to make it appear that [a deal is done]," he said.

Ermita also said the Manila Hotel cannot demand that the government drop all charges against Piatco with the sell-out of Fraport. He said the cases were a separate matter.

"Of course, we will pursue all pending cases against Piatco—from the anti-dummy to anti-graft cases—no matter who is the owner," Ermita said.

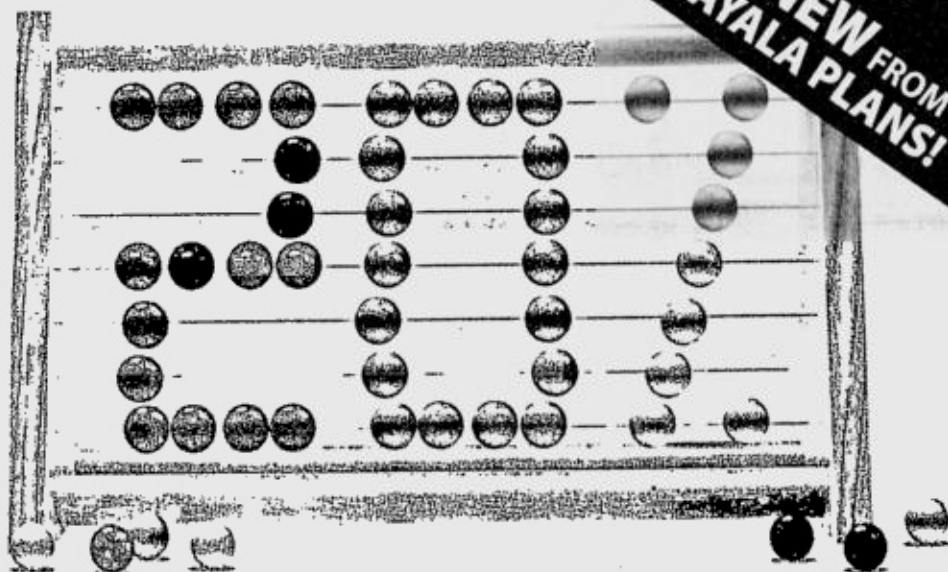
Piatco and Fraport officials are facing graft charges at the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court, plunder charges in the Supreme Court, and an anti-dummy investigation at the National Bureau of Investigation.

Piatco is 60-percent owned by the Cheng family, 30 percent by Fraport, and 10 percent by Nishio Iwai Corp. of Japan.

The government took over the mothballed Naia 3 from Piatco last December following a Supreme Court decision affirming Malacañang's revocation of the government contract with Piatco, but said it was committed to paying just compensation to the consortium and its shareholders.

Legal issues are still pending before the Supreme Court and two international arbitration committees over the Naia 3 expropriation.

Piatco is demanding a multimillion-dollar compensation from the government which voided its contract to build the facility in 2003.



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Local execs to ask GMA to put closure to 'Hello Garci' row

LOCAL government officials loyal to President Macapagal-Arroyo claimed yesterday they would ask her to finally reveal the real truth behind the so-called "Hello Garci"

tapes and whether or not the Palace intervened in the junking of the impeachment complaints in Congress.

In a media forum yesterday in Greenhills, San Juan, Nueva Ecija

Governor and League of Provinces of the Philippines Executive Vice President Tomas Joson told reporters said they would discuss these issues with Ms Arroyo in an "informal meeting."

He said the presentation of these issues to the President will be discussed formally in the scheduled meeting of the governor's league sometime on November.

While expressing their support for the President, Joson, who was joined at the forum by Agusan del Norte Gov. Erlpe John Amante, Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez, and Sulu

Governor and ARMM Chair Benjamin Loong, agreed that the junking of the impeachment complaint in the House "left more questions than answers." *Alcunt Papa*

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Prosecutors oppose Erap bail

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS VILLA-IGNACIO yesterday opposed a motion for bail by deposed President Joseph Estrada before the Sandiganbayan Special Division, saying it had no legal basis.

In an impassioned open-court plea, Villa-Ignacio asked the Sandiganbayan justices not to allow Estrada to post bail solely on the basis that he is not a flight risk.

He said that although the posting of bail for an accused is constitutionally guaranteed, the guarantee exclude those charged with a capital offense where the evidence of guilt is strong.

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that Estrada was charged with plunder, a capital offense punishable with death.

He also noted that the anti-graft court had ruled that the prosecution's evidence against the ousted President "would lead to conviction if uncontested."

The prosecutor stressed that it would have been different had Estrada been charged only with malicious mischief, as

in that case "maybe we would not oppose his motion for bail."

He warned that the prosecution would go to the Supreme Court if the Special Division were to allow Estrada to post bail.

Villa-Ignacio said that the attempt by Estrada's defense lawyers to skirt the merits of the case in seeking bail for their client was very revealing as it was "an implied admission that the prosecution's evidence is strong."

"That is why they are insisting that the argument on Estrada's motion for bail be centered on his not being a flight risk," Villa-Ignacio said.

Estrada's lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, insisted that the main reason for the detention of his client was the danger that he might flee or fail to attend court hearings, especially during the sentencing.

He cited the Montano case in which the Supreme Court ruled that the right to bail could be denied but "it must appear

in the case of conviction that the defendant's criminal liability would probably call for a capital punishment and that there must be satisfactory evidence of the probability of flight."

In 1952, Sen. Justiniano Montano was accused of kidnapping with multiple murder and frustrated murder but was allowed by the court to post bail despite the gravity of the allegations, Flaminiano said.

He argued that in the Estrada case, there was no danger that Estrada would jump bail or flee, citing as evidence past instances in which Estrada was allowed to travel abroad. He also said that the evidence against the disgraced leader was weak.

Flaminiano also said that bail would give Estrada every opportunity to defend himself from the charges.

He also said the motion for bail would seek Estrada's release on recognizance – a simple personal obligation or undertaking by Estrada – and would not touch on the merits of the case. **Nelson F. Flores**

Advertising exec Ambas dies; 54

SEASONED MARKETING AND advertising executive Francisco Ambas Jr. died yesterday afternoon at Medical City, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 54.

"Jun," as he was known to a wide circle of friends and colleagues, was the general manager of Manprom at the time of death. Before this, he had a distinguished career in marketing and advertising sales. He was advertising director of ABS-CBN Publishing and was responsible for having marketed its Metro Magazine, one of the oldest glossies in the country which was put up by his father-in-law, the journalist and restaurateur Larry Cruz before it was sold to the Lopez Group.

Jun is survived by wife Lorna and children Kiko, 20, and Kookie.

His body lies at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Cremation is on Sept. 10, Saturday.

No signs of dengue letting up

By Christian V. Esguerra



DENGUE IS NOT about to leave that easily.

A month before the dengue season was expected to end, the mosquito-borne disease made a sudden resurgence, killing a total of 249 out of 17,934 patients as of Sept. 1, the Department of Health reported yesterday.

The figures were 28 percent higher than the number of cases recorded during the same period last year.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier said that the number of infections had already peaked from June to August, indicating that cases were on their way down in the coming weeks.

The dengue season traditionally ends with the rainy season in October. The DOH projected that this year's cases would reach 20,000 by that time.

But Duque warned against complacency, saying the public should still continue searching and destroying breeding grounds for "aedes aegypti" mosquitoes, usually clear and stagnant waters.

Duque yesterday said most of the patients went down with "dengue hemorrhagic fever" (DHF), a common type of the disease characterized by a drop in the platelet count and later, and by internal bleeding.

He asked health officials to identify DHF, using the International Classification of Diseases Version 10, a global coding system for the accurate classification of all diseases known to man.

"Dengue is characterized by a wide spectrum of illness ranging from ordinary fever to dengue shock syndrome," he said in a statement.

Of the current number of infections, 7,713 or 43 percent were aged between 1 and 9 while more than half of them (52 percent) were male, according to the DOH National Epidemiology Center.

Northern Mindanao had the most number of cases with 2,780, followed by Metro Manila (2,558), Central Visayas (2,099), Central Luzon (2,056), and Western Mindanao (1,374).

At present, infections were reported in 61 barangay clusters, showing an 8-percent decrease from the 66 clusters documented in the last update released on Aug. 25.

The outbreak in the second district of Valenzuela City has been contained and there are no current "hotspots."



Salamat sa pag-asa!

Dahil sa mga mantika, harina, asukal, bigas at asin na sagana sa dagdag sustansyang Sangkap Pinoy (Bitamina A, Iodine at Iron) mas tatalino at mas lalakas na kami. Sa Sangkap Pinoy, mas dadami na ang magkakaroon ng pag-asa.

Sangkap Pinoy – Dagdag Sustansya, Sangkap Pampasigla! Para ang batang Pilipino ay hindi maging KSP (Kulang Sa Sangkap Pinoy). Hanapin – Diamond Sangkap Pinoy Seal.

Pinirmahan kamakailan ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ang Executive Order 382, ang panukalang tuwing ika-7 ng Nobyembre ng bawat taon ay Food Fortification Day.

Ang food fortification ay ang pagdadagdag ng mga micronutrients gaya ng Bitamina A, Iron at Iodine sa pagkaing kinakain araw-araw. Kailangan ng katawan ang micronutrients upang ito'y manatiling malusog, malakas at matalino.

Ayon sa mga nutrition surveys na ginawa ng Food and Nutrition Research Institute sa buong Pilipinas, ang Micronutrient Malnutrition ay isa sa mga lagapan na problemang pangkalusugan sa ating bansa. Sanhi ito ng mga sakit gaya ng malubhang karamdaman sa mata (kulang sa Bitamina A); kahinaan sa pag-iisip at kakulangan sa karunungan (kulang sa Iron); at goiter (kulang sa Iodine).

Ugalling kumain ng mga pagkaing fortified o may dagdag sustansiyang Bitamina A, Iron at Iodine. Hanapin ang Diamond Sangkap Pinoy Seal na ito sa mga mantika, harina, asukal, bigas, at asin.



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Thursday, September 8, 2005
Birth of Mary

1st Reading: Mic 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him Jesus" for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel which means: God-with-us.

Commentary

A birthday remembrance that goes way, way back beyond the actual birth of this woman who will give birth to the Savior. Because our meaning, even Mary's meaning does not lie in what we do, but whether or not we have done the one thing we were born to do: incarnate the Word in our flesh and bring the good news to the poor of our history and world. And this Jesus is born of a long line of sinners and holy men and women, patriarchs and patriarchs, prophets and psalm-singers, those who were faithful and enduring as they waited and those that betrayed every word out of the mouth of God. We are each born into this world, like Mary and we are born into the kingdom of our Father in our baptisms. We are born from a long line of folks. Mary's life, Mary's meaning was found in the Word made flesh, crucified and risen from the dead. It is the meaning of each of our lives.

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No contempt, just slap on the wrist, for AFP spokesman

By Dona Pazzibugan

A MILITARY court has ordered the spokesman of the Armed Forces to retract and publicly apologize for a statement that preempted the court's decision on the dismissal of the charges against the 29 leaders of the so-called Oakwood mutiny.

During yesterday's hearing, the court reminded Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service, that the court would not be "influenced, dictated (upon) and controlled" by the AFP leadership.

The court martial, presided over by Air Force Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr., however did not cite Honrado for contempt, as defense lawyers had asked.

The court was reacting to Honrado's statement on Aug. 25 that "the AFP will not allow the case to be dismissed merely because of a technicality."

Honrado had said allowing "these officers to walk free will mean that military adventurism goes unpunished and will set a bad precedent for would-be adventurists."

Defense lawyers quickly moved to have him cited for contempt of court for "preempting" the decision on their appeal to dismiss the case on grounds that the junior officers were not arraigned before the case prescribed on June 26.

Court's 'advice'

"In order to maintain the dignity of this court, a letter will be sent to Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado," the tribunal said in a statement read yesterday by the law member, Lt. Col. Edmund Janda.

He said the court is "advising him (Honrado) to refrain from making any statement or pronouncement which will tend to compromise the independence and integrity of this court and also to retract his statement and finally make a public apology."

Defense lawyer Roel Pulido insisted that Honrado should be cited for contempt.

But Janda explained that under the Articles of War, the court could only cite military officers for direct contempt, and not indirect contempt.

He said Honrado's remarks amounted to an indirect contempt.

Honrado earlier told reporters he merely "echoed" the position of the Trial Judge Advocate or the prosecution panel, when he said the AFP would never allow the coup leaders to be spared from a court martial.

But defense lawyers Pulido and Theodore Te said the military spokesman should be "punished" for presuming to make the decision for the court.

Brazen attempt

"Brigadier General Honrado preempts this court and brazenly attempts to influence its ruling on the motion for reconsideration," they said in a petition for contempt of court filed Aug. 26.

The defense panel had asked the court martial to reconsider its Aug. 4 order continuing the trial of the 29 so-called "Magdalo" officers who led the mutiny in a posh Makati hotel on July 27, 2003.

Pulido said the court committed a "grave abuse of discretion" when it reversed its own ruling on July 26 which said the case had prescribed that night with only two officers arraigned, namely Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Milo Maestre-campo.

Under court martial rules, charges are dropped if an accused is not arraigned two years after the alleged offense.

The TJA panel led by Col. Julius Magno had argued first, the two-year prescription period did not apply and that all 29 officers were considered arraigned when charges were read in open court, even though they were not individually asked for their pleas.

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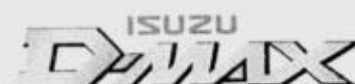


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Palace: Not a costly win, just lotsa' pork

From page A1

"I can't give any ballpark figure (on the political cost). It's just people saying there were concessions made. But members of Congress already have their PDAF (Priority Development Assistance Fund) and the most that the President could have done was to maybe hasten the releases. Whether they would get additional funding, I have no knowledge," Ermita said.

Pancho had confirmed he was offered multimillion-peso projects for his constituents by the administration in exchange for his vote to kill the impeachment case.

Pancho is a member of the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), chaired by Estrada.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada disclosed Pancho's turnaround yesterday even as the senator denied allegations that the Estrada family had struck a deal with the Arroyo administration in exchange for favorable votes of party members on the complaint.

"A congressman, who is a member of Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino, confessed to my father and to myself that he cannot vote 'no' for the impeachment proceedings since he was promised by the administration that he was going to be given around P321 million in the form of projects," he said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

He said he would strongly urge Pancho to resign from PMP.

The young Estrada said that Pancho made the call to his father last Sunday, but earlier, he also got to talk with the congressman.

"I talked to him two weeks ago and he was flip-flopping on his decision to vote in the impeachment proceeding because of the deal between Congressman Pancho and this administration," he said.

Pancho acknowledged that he wrote Ms Arroyo last December requesting that she, through the National Housing Authority, grant discounts on the sale of property to informal settlers living along the railroad tracks in Bulacan.

Housing discounts: P321 M

To his surprise, he said the President granted his request.

"That is P35,000 per family, equivalent to P321 million. This is not a project but a cost deduction from the cost of land," he said in an interview over the cable channel ANC, but stressed that this had not been finalized because the settlers had asked for a P50,000 discount.

"We're still fighting to get a bigger discount, but I've realized that this is wrong," he said.

Pancho, flattered by the administration's gesture of giving importance to his request despite being an opposition lawmaker, said he left the session hall during Tuesday's voting on the House committee on justice's resolutions junking the three impeachment complaints against the President.

"I left because I felt it wasn't right to vote ... The other congressmen convinced me, but I said that I would never vote because I only fought for the rights [of the squatters]," he said. "They gave me that help, but didn't expect anything in return."

HOW THE HOUSE VOTED

VOTED YES

INDEPENDENT Lagman, Edel C.	Albay	Amin, Hussin U.	Sulu	Nantes, Rafael P.	Quezon
KAMPI Albano, Rodolfo III T.	Isabela	Apostol, Trinidad "Ebbie" G.	Leyte	Nieva, Ernesto "Banzal" A.	Manila
Alvarez, Antonio C.	Palawan	Aquino, Roy B. MD	Pampanga	Roces, Miles M.	Manila
Antonino, Rodolfo W.	Nueva Ecija	Arbison, Munir M.	Agusan del Norte	Sandoval, Federico II. S.	Malabon-Navotas
Arroyo, Iggy	Negros Occ.	Banaag, Leovigildo B.	Zamboanga Sibugay	Singson, Eric D.	Ilocos Sur
Bersamin, Luis Jr. P.	Abra	Cablao, Belma A.	Bohol	Suarez, Danilo E.	Quezon
Bravo, Narciso Jr. R.	Masbate	Cajes, Roberto C.	Leyte	Syluco, Judy	Iloilo
Carmona, Tranquillo B.	Negros Occ.	Carl, Carmen L.	Valenzuela	Valencia, Rodolfo G.	Oriental Mindoro
Celeste, Arthur F.	Pangasinan	Carlos, Bobbit L. MD	Quezon City	Vargas, Florencio L.	Cagayan
Dominguez, Victor S.	MT. Province	Castelo-Daza, Nanette	Bohol	Wacnang, Laurence B.	Kalinga
Dumit, Tomas M.	La Union	Chatto, Edgar M.	Leyte	Remulla, Jesus Crispin	Cavite
Dy, Consuelo A.	Pasay City	Codilla, Eufrocino Sr. M.	Maguindanao	NP	Cebu
Espina, Gerardo Jr. J.	Marikina City	Datumanong, Simeon A.	Maguindanao	Guillas, Eduardo R.	North Cotabato
Espino, Amado Jr. T.	Pangasinan	De Guzman, Del R.	Marikina City	Talillo-Santos, Emmylou "Lala" J.	
Falcon, Peter Paul Jed C.	Surigao del Sur	De Venecla, Jose Jr.	Pangasinan		
Firmalo, Eduardo C.	Romblon	Defensor, Arthur D.	Iloilo		
Garcia, Albert S.	Bataan	Dimaporo, Abdullah D.	Iloilo		
Gozos, Oscar L.	Batangas	Dumapra, Faysah RPM	Iloilo		
Malanyaon, Corazon N.	Davao Oriental	Ecleo, Glenda B.	Iloilo		
Mangudadatu, Suharto "Teng" T.	Sultan Kudarat	Ermita-Buhain, Elleen	Iloilo		
Marañon, Alfredo III D.	Negros Occ.	Fua, Orlando Jr. A.	Iloilo		
Miranda, Anthony C.	Isabela	Gonzalez, Raul Jr. T.	Iloilo		
Puno, Ronald V.	Antipolo City	Javier, Exequiel B.	Iloilo		
Solis, Jose G.	Sorsogon	Mercado, Roger G.	Iloilo		
Soon-Ruiz, Nerissa Corazon	Cebu	Nicolas, Reynina G.	Iloilo		
Sumulong, Victor R.	Antipolo City	Nogales, Prospero Jr. A.	Iloilo		
Tulagan, Generoso DC	Pangasinan	Olaño, Arrel R.	Iloilo		
Villafuerte, Luis R.	Camarines Sur	Pichay, Prospero Jr. A.	Iloilo		
Villarosa, Ma. Amelita C.	Occ. Mindoro	Real Isidro Jr. E.	Iloilo		
KNP		Roquero, Eduardo VMD	Iloilo		
Figueras, Catalino V.	Western Samar	Salapuddin, Gerry A.	Iloilo		
Lagbas, Danilo P.	Misamis Oriental	Silverio, Lorna C.	Iloilo		
LAKAS		Susano, Mary Ann L.	Iloilo		
Baterina, Salacnib F.	Ilocos Sur	Umalil, Oyle	Iloilo		
Dangwa, Samuel M.	Benguet	Uy, Edwin C.	Iloilo		
Del Mar, Raul V.	Cebu City	Violago, Eleuterio R.	Iloilo		
Domogan, Mauricio G.	Baguio	Salceda, Joey Sarte	Iloilo		
Durano, Ramon VI H.	Cebu	Unico, Renato "Kuya Jojo" Jr. J.	Iloilo		
Jala, Eddio M.	Bohol	Abian, Roque Jr. R.	Iloilo		
Jaralua, Constantino G.	Cagayan de Oro City	Alfelor, Felix Jr. R.	Iloilo		
Lacson, Jose Carlos V.	Negros Occidental	Bondoc, Anna York P. MD	Iloilo		
Libanan, Marcelino C.	Eastern Samar	Florendo, Antonio Jr. R.	Iloilo		
Magsaysay, Ma. Milagros "Mitos"	Zambales	Abubakar, Anwar J.	Iloilo		
Puenteveilla, Monica O.	Bacolod City	Cuenco, Antonio V.	Iloilo		
Ramiro, Hermilina M.	Misamis Occ.	LP	Iloilo		
Sy-Alvarado, Wilhelmio M.	Bulacan	Abayan, Harlin C.	Iloilo		
Teves, Hermilio G.	Negros Oriental	Andaya, Rolando Jr. G.	Iloilo		
Zamorra, Manuel "Way Kurat" E.	Compostela Valley	Buener, Danton Q.	Iloilo		
Zalcita Eduardo C.	Parañaque	Castro, Fred H.	Iloilo		
Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.	Bukidnon	Chungalao, Solomon R.	Iloilo		
Abalos, Benjamin Jr. D.	Mandaluyong	Cua, Junie E.	Iloilo		
Abante, Blenvenido Jr. M.	Manila	Dadivas, Rodriguez D.	Iloilo		
Almario, Mayo Z.	Davao Oriental	Defensor, Matias Jr. V.	Iloilo		
Amante, Ma. Angelica Rosedell	Agusan del Norte	Diaz, Antonio M.	Iloilo		
Amatong, Prospero S.	Compostela Valley	Hizon, Joey D.	Iloilo		
		Mitra, Abraham Kahili B.	Iloilo		

VOTED NO

INDEPENDENT Golez, Rolio S.	Parañaque	Aquino, Benigno Simeon III	Tarlac	PMP	San Juan
LAKAS		Bacan, Rodolfo C.	Manila	Zamorra, Ronaldo B.	
Barbers, Ace S.	Surigao del Norte	Biazon, Rozzano Rufino B.	Muntinlupa City	PDP	
Jaworski, Robert "Dodot" Jr.	Pasig	Mamba, Manuel N.	Cagayan	Locsin, Teodoro Jr. L.	Makati City
Martinez, Clavel A.	Cebu	Mandanas, Hermilando I.	Batangas	PARTYLIST	
Reyes, Edmundo Jr. O.	Marinduque	Roman, Antonino P.	Bataan	Agua, Mario "Mayong" Joyo	AKBAYAN
LDP		Tañada, Lorenzo III R.	Quezon	Hontiveros-Baraque, Ana "Risa"	AKBAYAN
Agarao, Benjamin Jr. C.	Laguna	Umalil, Alfonso Jr. V.	Oriental Mindoro	Rosales, Loretta Ann P.	AKBAYAN
Angara, Juan Edgardo M.	Aurora	NP		Marcoleta, Rodante D.	ALAGAD
Aquino, Agapito S.	Makati City	Cayetano, Alan Peter S.	Pateros-Taguig	Hataman, Mujiv	AMIN
Fabian, Erico Basilio A.	Zamboanga City	Chipeco, Huston "Timmy" SB	Laguna	Noel, Florancio "Bem" G.	AN WARAY
Gulnguna, Teofisto "TGS" III L.	Bukidnon	Remulla, Gilbert C.	Cavite	Beltran, Crispin B.	ANAKPAWIS
Paras, Jacinto V.	Negros Oriental	Villar, Cynthia A.	Las Piñas City	Mariano, Rafael V.	ANAKPAWIS
Suplico, Rolox T.	Iloilo	NPC		Casillo, Teodoro A.	BAYAN MUNA
LP		Antonino-Custodio, Darlene R.	South Cotabato	Ocampo, Satur C.	BAYAN MUNA
Abad, Henedina R.	Batanes	Escudero, Francis G.	Sorsogon	Virador, Joel G.	BUHAY
Abaya, Joseph Emilio A.	Cavite	Fuentebella, Arnulfo P.	Camarines Sur	Señeres, Christian M.	CIBAC
Acosta, JR Nereus O.	Bukidnon	Lopez, Ruy Elias C.	Davao City	Villanueva, Emmanuel Joel J.	GABRIELA
Alcala, Proceso J.	Quezon	Pingoy, Arthur Jr. Y.	South Cotabato	Maza, Liza L.	PARTIDO NG MAN-GAGAWA
		Plaza, Rodolfo "Ompong" G.	Agusan Del Sur	Magtubo, Renato "Ka Rene" B.	

FAILED TO VOTE

KBL Marcos, Imee R.	Ilocos Norte	Uy, Reynaldo S.	Western Samar	KAMPI Baculio, Augusto H.	Misamis Oriental
KNP Pancho, Pedro M.	Bulacan	NPC		Byron, Ferjanel G. MD	Iloilo
LAKAS		Asistio, Luis A.	Kalocan	LAKAS	Iloilo
Arroyo, Mikey Macapagal	Pampanga	Bautista, Claude P.	Davao del Sur	Garin, Janette L. MD.	Manila
Petilla, Remedios "Matin" L.	Leyte	Cojuangco, Carlos O.	Negros Occ.	Lopez, Jaime C.	
Reyes, Victoria H.	Batangas	Cojuangco, Mark O.	Pangasinan	KNP	
Chiongbian, Erwin L.	Sarangani	Macias, Emilio II C.	Negros Oriental	Crisologo, Vincent "Bingbong" P.	Quezon City
LDP		Ponce, Enrile Juan Jr. C.	Cagayan	Dilangalen, Baisendig G.	Maguindanao
Malapitan, Oscar G.	Kalocan	Santiago, Joseph A.	Catanduanes		
Agbayani, Rodolfo Q.	Nueva Vizcaya	Sarapio, Antonio M.	Valenzuela		
LP		Yapha, Antonio Jr. P.	Cebu		
Miraflores, Florencio T.	Aklan	Imperial Carlos R.	Albay		
		Vicencio, Romualdo T.	Northern Samar		

ABSTAINED

KAMPI Baculio, Augusto H.	Misamis Oriental	KAMPI Baculio, Augusto H.	Misamis Oriental
Byron, Ferjanel G. MD	Iloilo	Byron, Ferjanel G. MD	Iloilo
LAKAS	Iloilo	LAKAS	Iloilo
Garin, Janette L. MD.	Manila	Garin, Janette L. MD.	Manila
Lopez, Jaime C.		Lopez, Jaime C.	
KNP	Quezon City	KNP	Quezon City
Crisologo, Vincent "Bingbong" P.	Maguindanao	Crisologo, Vincent "Bingbong" P.	Maguindanao
Dilangalen, Baisendig G.		Dilangalen, Baisendig G.	

Expulsion

Former President Estrada said Pancho would be expelled from PMP.

Estrada told the INQUIRER that Pancho had admitted that he had been allocated a P321-million project for urban poor families in his district in exchange for his failure to register a "no" vote against the House committee on justice report that dismissed all three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

"I already scolded him. I could understand him because it was for the poor (in his district). But it was against the party principle. I guess he will have to be expelled," Estrada said.

Moratorium on criticism

With the impeachment process finished, Ermita said the public should now shift its attention to other issues. "They should end this for the moment and just wait for another 12 months. Let's give

our country the chance to rest," he said.

Another impeachment complaint may be filed against the President after one year.

Ermita appealed for a moratorium on criticisms and protests against the President during her trip next week to New York. "I just hope we can have moratorium not to embarrass the head of state while she is away."

Ermita also made a special plea to two widows—former Presi-

dent Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Rocas—"to stay sober especially now that Congress has finished its job."

"We are not belittling their participation. They are very respected people. It is their right to continue (with their protest actions) but I hope we can rest from these issues for the sake of our countrymen."

No Iglesia support

Ermita denied getting out-

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a table on the front page—Numbers Game—misstated that the number of lawmakers who voted no on the House justice committee report on the three impeachment complaints was 52 and those who did not vote was 20. The figures were based on the list of names posted on Sept. 6 at the website of the House—<http://www.congress.gov.ph>.

On Sept. 7, however, the website had an updated list of those who voted no. It no longer included the name of Rep. Romualdo Vicencio. According to the Congress Journal Section, Vicencio failed to vote. The final vote tally therefore is 158—yes; 51—no; 6—abstentions; and 21—failed to vote.

See complete list of lawmakers and how they voted on the impeachment issue at left.

side support in the impeachment case against the President. "I don't know of any organization who might have figured in the impeachment case other than the usual entities who are the representatives," he said.

The powerful Iglesia Ni Cristo reportedly was crucial in making last-minute calls to lawmakers that effectively neutralized the signature campaign of the pro-impeachment camp from snowballing last week.

An opposition lawmaker accused Malacañang of using the religious sect to deflect public attention from the financial and political pressures it applied on members of the House to dismiss the impeachment case.

Name names

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said the administration should stop using the influential religious sect, adding that he had not heard any lawmaker complain that the INC tried to influence his or her vote.

"This is a crude attempt to deflect responsibility from what the Palace did. They are hiding behind the INC for the condemnable acts they did in Congress," Suplico said.

"As a leader of the pro-impeachment camp, I have never heard of any member of the House of Representatives being talked to by the INC to vote one way or the other," he added.

He was reacting to the statement of Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser of the President, that INC head Eraño Manalo personally called up lawmakers last week to stop them from voting for the complaint.

"I think Congressman Salceda should back up his claim and name names," Suplico said.

He said Malacañang and Salceda should stop hiding behind the INC and just admit their interference in the impeachment vote. "They should be man enough to admit their own deeds."

It's not over, mass actions on; Palace appeals to two widows

From page A1

ow of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., runner up in the 2004 presidential election. "Oust Gloria, oust Gloria," the crowd yelled.

By 7 p.m. upon the expiration of a permit to demonstrate and with Roces gone, the protesters began to disperse.

Planned transport strike

Small protests are expected to continue. Piston, an organization of jeepney drivers and operators, announced plans to go on a transport strike on Monday.

So far, protests against Ms Arroyo in the last three months have not generated the massive crowds that participated in the People Power revolts that toppled Presidents Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Yet another alliance—the Solidarity Movement—was formed to force the 58-year-old Ms Arroyo to step aside

over charges she stole last year's election and her family received illegal gambling pay-offs.

"We urge the people to actively express their protests and defiance against this illegitimate and immoral regime," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, one of the Solidarity organizers.

Familiar faces from Bangon Pilipinas Movement of losing presidential candidate and evangelist Eddie Villanueva; Reporma of the late Raul Roco, who also lost the presidential race; party-list group Bayan Muna; and jailed former President Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino attended the launch of the new movement in San Juan yesterday.

The four political groups are already members of the United Opposition formed months ago, with Binay as president.

These groups are also under the Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan, which led the 10,000-strong rally at the Batasang

Pambansa on Tuesday during the junking of the impeachment complaint against Arroyo. They were led by Rocas and former President Corazon Aquino.

Moratorium call

With Ms Arroyo set to depart for the United States to preside over a UN Security Council meeting on Sept. 14, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday appealed for a moratorium on protest actions. The President is expected to be away starting Sept. 11. She is to return home on Sept. 17.

"If they indeed love our country, as every Filipino should, probably they could relent on this for the moment," Ermita told reporters.

Asked whether there were reports that destabilization moves would be made against the government while the President was away, Ermita said the Palace had no such information so far.

Ermita also said Vice Presi-

dent Noli de Castro would be in charge while Ms Arroyo is away. He said there was no reason to doubt De Castro's loyalty.

GMA part of problem

Responding to Ms Arroyo's earlier call for reconciliation, Binay said "we cannot achieve this unity" with the President at the helm. He said Ms Arroyo was a major part of the nation's problems.

In the afternoon, followers of the new movement joined the protesters at the monument, a kilometer away from the Edsa shrine.

Some employees of the Makati City Hall left their offices after lunch, purportedly to allow them to join the anti-Arroyo rally. "They said we would only work half-day today... they said we were required to join the rally in Edsa," said one employee.

However, Makati spokesperson Joey Salgado said no directive had been issued officially

suspending work to allow employees to join the anti-Arroyo rallies.

Mindanao protests

In Cagayan de Oro City, the Gloria Resign Now Movement began the series of mobilization aimed at forcing Ms Arroyo out of office. A similar action was held in Malaybalay City, where militants belonging to the Youth for the Ouster of GMA took turn in lambasting solons who voted in favor of the impeachment complaint's junking.

Nero Vallar, Bayan Muna regional coordinator, told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo "dug her own grave now that the impeachment has been killed."

"Junking the impeachment is a sad and hurting event in our political history. More than 80 percent of Filipinos are seeking for the truth through legal process but Congress drastically denied the Filipinos the truth," said Jun Jardinico, a Franciscan priest from Valencia City in Bukidnon.

"The killing of the impeachment complaint did not kill the eagerness of the people to seek the truth. We

will support the people in their quest to ferret out the truth," said Bishop Felixberto Calang of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente-Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon and Camiguin.

Junking truth

Ordinary people elsewhere seem to share the same stand.

"The junking of the impeachment complaint signals the 'junking' of truth," said Christian Belenson, bookkeeper at the Davao Central Chemical Corp. in Tibungco, Davao City.

Analyn Aquino, a 24-year-old teacher in Panabo City said the impeachment process should have been allowed.

"So that we may know the result either negative or positive and that President Arroyo should face it all. The question playing in the minds of the people is if she was really guilty of rigging the elections in 2004," she said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Tarra V. Quismundo and Charlie C. Señase, Grace C. Albasin and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Where are they now? Imee Marcos ...

From page A1

Luis "Baby" Asistio, yesterday said he left for the United States to avoid being forced to sign the amended impeachment complaint filed by his colleagues against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I wanted to avoid the pressure from any group, including my bosom buddy Joseph Estrada," Asistio said in a statement distributed by his spokesperson, Allan Encarnacion.

Asistio, who is now in Los Angeles, was one of the 20 members of the House of Representatives who did not vote on the justice committee report jinking the three impeachment complaints against the President.

The House on Tuesday approved the committee report by a vote of 158-51 with six abstentions.

Unexpected

Three members of the House—Marcos, Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago and Western Samar Rep. Reynaldo Uy—also signed the amended impeachment complaint but were a no-show during the voting. They could not be contacted yesterday.

Proimpeachment lawmakers acknowledged that they were caught by surprise when the three signatories to the impeachment complaint, particularly Marcos, did not show up during the crucial voting.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the absence of Marcos, Santiago and Uy (LP) were "unexpected."

Disciplinary action

Minority members called for disciplinary action against the three lawmakers but Escudero said he would first talk with the three and five other opposition lawmakers—Deputy Minority Leaders Asistio, Oscar Malapitan, Antonio Serapio and Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo, and Dilangalen—who failed to vote.

Abstained, absent

Except for Dilangalen, who abstained, the others were absent. Crisologo was seen at the session hall before the vote but he later disappeared. He was included among the six lawmakers who abstained.

"Definitely, we were surprised. We did not expect that all of them would not appear. (Davao City Rep.) Ruy Lopez attended the vote even when his brother just died," Cayetano said.

He said the impeachment group met with the eight lawmakers "almost every day" last week but they gave no indication that they were going to be absent. He added that the group would have appreciated it and understood if they had done so and then explained their decision.

"We had reports on Saturday and Sunday that government officials were going around with bags of money (and enticing lawmakers not to attend). It's unfair to speculate but would you blame our members who refused the offers if they have doubts (about their absent colleagues)?" Cayetano said.

"Although we are disappointed, we hope that they would come up with a logical explanation (for their absence)," he added.

Marcos burial

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said his group had doubts about Marcos, noting that they had heard reports that the Marcos family was trying to get a deal with the administration for the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We had doubts because she was also not able to bring along other members of the Northern Bloc (to join the proimpeachment ranks)," said Casiño, referring to lawmakers from Northern Luzon.

"There should be a confrontation," said Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico. "You cannot sleep, drink, talk and dine with us and then absent yourself at the day of reckoning."

"We did not have any indication that Imee Marcos will be absent. She was a very, very active member of the group, attending even our confidential meetings," he added.

Suplico also questioned how Crisologo could have abstained when he was not present when the vote was taken.

"I did not see him on the floor. You have to be present to vote. Voting by cell phone is not allowed," he added.

Juicy posts

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras noted that Marcos was even made an opposition representative to the powerful Commission on Appointments.

"If there is somebody who should stick with the opposition, it's her. She got the choicest post—at the Commission on Appointments," Paras said.

He added that Marcos and Santiago were close associates of Escudero, with Santiago also getting a plum post at the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

"We were with Joseph just last week. It's hard to explain. It's not for me to judge them," Paras said.

Santiago even attended Escudero's press conference in Quezon City on Thursday and dismissed rumors that he was going to withdraw his signature from the complaint.

"I'm going to meet them before this Friday. Maybe they have a good reason for their absence. I'm reserving my comment until after I meet with them," Escudero said yesterday.

"But definitely, there will be a realignment in the minority," he added.

Marcos, Santiago and Uy could not be reached for comment yesterday as their cellular phones were turned off. Marcos is reportedly in Singapore while Uy is in Western Samar since last week.

Pacquiao fight

Interviewed on dzBB on Wednesday afternoon, Asistio said he also flew to Los Angeles

also to watch the nontitle fight between Manny Pacquiao and Hector Velasquez of Mexico scheduled for Sept. 10.

Encarnacion said Asistio contacted him yesterday morning to explain why he left the country last week and why he did not endorse the impeachment complaint.

"He called me up and asked me to release to the media his reason," the spokesperson said.

Asistio said he could not reject Estrada's request for him to sign the impeachment complaint if he was in the country. The congressman has been a friend of the former President since their youth, when Estrada was still making a name for himself as a movie actor.

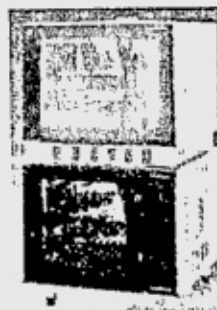
No mandate

Asistio believes Ms Arroyo should not be impeached because she is not the duly elected President.

Instead, he wants Ms Arroyo to be forced to step down because the impeachment process only covers officials with legitimate mandates. Reports from Nancy C. Carvajal and Norman Boradora



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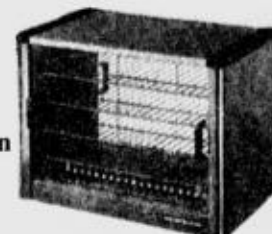
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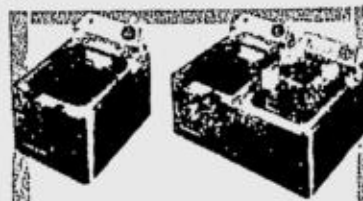
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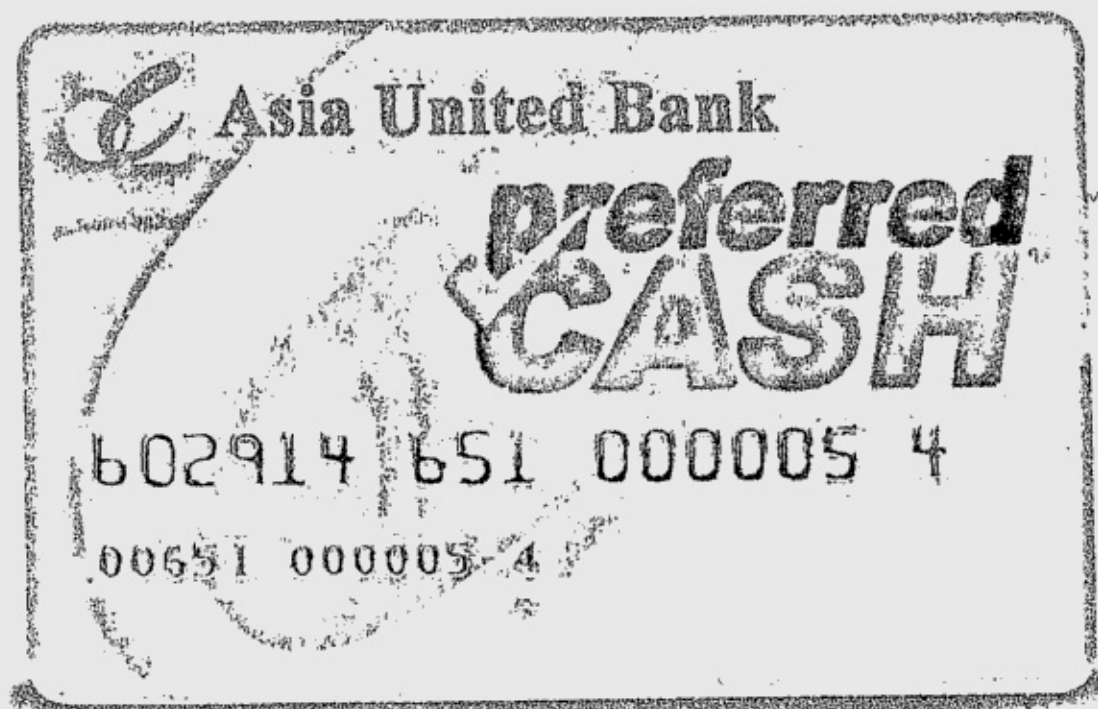
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WHAT'S ONE MORE? Another anti-GMA consortium is formed called Solidarity Movement. Founding members include from left, seated, Horacio Morales, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Rep. Satur Ocampo. From left, standing, Roy Señeres, Renato Constantino, Liwayway Venzons-Chato, retired Col. Gerry Cunanan, Marietta Goco, Frank Chavez and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

JOAN BONDOL



A FAMILIAR face returns to the political arena. Oscar Orbos, former Cabinet official, governor and congressman, talks to the media as a resource person at the launch of the Sept. 7 Movement on Wednesday.

REM ZAMORA

'Resignation still option for GMA'

From page A1

credible President. How will [she] prove it before the UN," he said.

CBCP statement

Lagdameo will formally take over the CBCP leadership from Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla in January.

Asked whether the CBCP would issue another statement on the political crisis, as some bishops had suggested, Lagdameo said it would depend on the meeting of its permanent council on Sept. 13.

Capalla had said on Tuesday that the CBCP would not revise its July 10 statement.

In that pastoral statement, Lagdameo noted, Ms Arroyo's voluntary resignation was among the three options proposed by the CBCP to resolve the political crisis.

The other two were impeachment and the formation of a truth commission to look into allegations that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 election, among others.

Malacañang on Monday announced that it would not push for the creation of the truth commission—a turnaround from the President's announcement last month that she would create the fact-finding body.

The CBCP had not directly urged the President to step down, but said she should not simply dismiss such calls. It also said the filing of an impeachment case against her was "not against the Gospel."

Lagdameo said what was needed was not a clarification of the July 10 statement but "a discerning of the development of events

and what we should do, and what attitude to take."

'Where is her heart?'

In Manila, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen said the President should not ignore widespread calls for her resignation because the impeachment case had been suppressed even before it could tackle—and provide closure to—allegations that she had manipulated the 2004 election.

"Where is her heart?" the prelate emeritus of Infanta said in Filipino. "Some people are even asking if she has a conscience."

Labayen spoke with reporters after a forum at the University of Santo Tomas launching the "Sept. 7 Movement," yet another umbrella organization calling for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

He said Ms Arroyo should look into her "heart and conscience" because it was God who would be the supreme judge of her actions.

"Her fate is now up to God. I hope she still has fear of the Lord," Labayen said, adding:

"The conscience is God's voice. If we still believe in the Lord, we should let Him in and see what He is going to do or tell us."

Labayen observed that despite the serious allegations against her, Ms Arroyo usually invoked the name of the Lord in interviews and visited churches with photographers in tow.

"That's 'OA (overacting)'" he said. "Many people go to church simply to show off and pretend that they are religious. But where is their heart?"

Solution in her hands

In Naga City, Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi acknowledged that the just concluded impeach-



INCOMING CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo asked the hard question: What is the truth that she is trying to hide?

JESS YUSON

ment proceedings had hewed to the constitutional process.

Nevertheless, he said, Ms Arroyo should prove that she deserved public trust in order to erase doubts on the legitimacy of her presidency.

"The solution is in her hands, in order to frustrate the temptation among her adversaries to embark on the same impeachment [path] a year from now," he said.

Legaspi said he did not agree

that the issues plaguing the Arroyo presidency could be fully resolved through protest rallies. He said these were not the right forum.

"The other way of [erasing doubts about the Arroyo presidency] is for the President to prove in the succeeding days that she deserves to be trusted," he said.

He also said the President could bank on the strength of character that she displayed dur-

ing the peak of the political crisis to institute substantial reforms in her governance.

He added that the much-needed reforms would "help in lessening the suspicions and doubts regarding her presidency."

Middle forces

Amid the opposing calls from various groups and forces, Lagdameo said the people should listen to the "middle forces," which, according to him, included the academe, businessmen and professionals and students.

"Let [them] more clearly speak their mind," he said. "What have they to say?"

He also said the legalities of the unresolved issues could also be brought to the Supreme Court.

Lagdameo expressed respect for the groups and personalities who shifted the battle to the streets after the dismissal of the impeachment complaints.

"We respect that option being taken ... because it is a way to express their sentiments on present issues," he said.

But Lagdameo, who was among those at the forefront of mass actions calling for the resignation of then President Joseph Estrada in 2001, said the "playing field" now was different from that of the two People Power uprisings.

"This time the people are divided between those for and against [the President]. It is not the same as in 1986 and in 2001," he said.

And while the search for truth

goes on, "real issues" such as the worsening economic conditions, food, housing, employment and education should be addressed, Lagdameo said.

"It is the poor who suffer most in the political turmoil," he said. "Our search for truth must go on together with our struggle for justice and the common good ... and the struggle for economic redemption."

GMAA

Labayen, one of the few Roman Catholic bishops openly demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation, is a member of the Sept. 7 Movement, an alliance of anti-Arroyo forces including the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya, Akbayan and Fr. Robert Reyes' Pag-Asa.

The group is planning a series of protest actions, including civil disobedience, aimed at what it called "GMAA" or "Government of Money, Arrogance and Apathy."

Reyes yesterday said taking to the streets was one of the few avenues left now that the impeachment case had been ditched.

"Now, we have to put more pressure on the government, on the President, and on the various institutions that might control and suppress the truth," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

"Democracy is in danger in the Philippines. Hopefully it's not dead yet," he said. *With a report from Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau*

Businessmen: Political crisis not yet a closed book

From page A1

Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said protest activities would determine just how erratic the foreign exchange, stock and bond markets would be in the coming days.

"The volatility will prevail," he said. "Market will continue to be unsettled depending on street activity."

The broader business community will likely adopt a wait-and-see stance pending a clearer resolution to the political crisis.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club (MBC), said companies would continue to be "cautious, tentative, and hesitant" in the immediate future.

The MBC has called on Ms Arroyo to step down and has aligned itself with other civil society groups seeking her ouster.

"Confidence is the key element here," Luz said. "Many businesses want to return to 'business as usu-

al' but they know that there is a problem."

Many firms will keep expansion or investment plans on hold until a clearer picture emerges on how the prevailing crisis will end, according to Luz.

"Something's got to give," he said. "We can't have this conflict for too long."

Tougher times

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it was best that the dismissal of the impeachment case could translate into a closure.

"We cannot afford to endure another year of mass actions and political crisis," Ortiz-Luis said.

Just because the impeachment case against the President had been quashed, investors were not about to jump back into Philippine stocks, according to stock analysts and fund managers.

"Investors are not in a hurry to buy. Even if the impeachment

case was voted out it does not remove the overhang in terms of the political crisis," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management Philippines, a fund manager with about P23 billion in trust assets.

Garcia said investors were also worried about the immediate effects of the political uncertainties on the economy.

"Investors are pricing in tougher times—a more challenging economic environment, a slowdown in the top-line growth and possibly a margin squeeze in relation to the higher crude oil prices and the expected implementation of the expanded value added tax law," Garcia said.

He said investors were also unsure if the political situation would get better. "Now they would rather stay on the sidelines."

Anxiety

Grace Cerdania, chief operating officer at online broker 2Trade Asia.Com, said what was

causing more anxiety in the stock market was the increase in key interest rates due to a spike in the prices of goods and services.

"The market was up slightly (yesterday) and much of the political news has been factored in. If there is any immediate worry, it's over inflation," Cerdania said.

Prices of basic commodities rose 7.2 percent year-on-year in August, faster than the 7.1-percent rise in July, due to higher housing-related costs and services, the National Statistics Office said. For the January-August period, inflation averaged 8.1 percent, much higher than the government's full-year target of 5-6 percent.

Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank was ready to raise its key interest rates "in the short run" to keep a lid on price pressures that may be caused by a weak currency.

Higher interest rates normally bode ill for companies since this tends to bloat borrowing costs for expansion activities.

Swift dismissal agitated soldiers, warns Biazon

From page A1

ence to the chain of command," Lomibao said in a statement yesterday.

Aquino 'magic' not working

Also yesterday, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile urged former President Corason Aquino, who is leading a broad anti-Arroyo coalition and a signature campaign to revive the impeachment complaint, to assess her "supposed magic" to draw crowds.

"I hope Cory can do her homework. You know what's happening now shows to Cory that Peo-

ple Power did not make her President. It was the military that made her President," Enrile said.

Enrile, then defense secretary, had led a breakaway of defense and military officials from Marcos after the dictator discovered that Enrile was plotting a coup d'etat. A massing of people, summoned by the late Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, came to Enrile's rescue that led to the peaceful ouster of the dictator Marcos.

Sen. Ralph Recto urged the administration and the opposition "to stop luring the military to their side."

"There is no guarantee that once awakened it will not devour both of them," Recto said.

Sen. Richard Gordon said Ms Arroyo's opponents could file another impeachment complaint after a year or seek redress in the Supreme Court or in a truth commission.

Only forum left

"So my appeal is this: we should always think of the national interest," he told reporters. "It's better if we concentrate on the needs of the country because we are being left be-

hind by other countries."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he saw nothing unlawful about mounting "peaceful" street protests, saying these were the only forum left for pro-impeachment groups to demand Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"I think the other option available is demonstrations, rallies, strikes, boycotts of businesses associated with Gloria. But as I keep saying, these should be peaceful. These should prod Gloria to see the wisdom of resigning," he said in an interview.

From page A1

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources decided yesterday to follow in the footsteps of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF), whose operations were boosted by public awareness generated by its posters with pictures of wanted kidnappers.

DENR Undersecretary Armando de Castro said the government would adopt the suggestion of Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, to "put a face" to endangered species.

Public places

The DENR will be producing posters and brochures that contain pictures of endangered species and plaster these information materials in police stations, bus terminals, train stations, airports, piers, pet shops, malls and other public places to raise public consciousness on the illegal wildlife trade.

"We really intend to intensify our information and education campaign," said De Castro, who oversees the government's protected areas and wildlife program.

Querol has urged the DENR to follow the strategy of the NAKTF, pointing out that more than half of the population, including law enforcers who are supposed to be arresting violators of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, did not know what the endangered species looked like.

In fact, the police officer admitted in a press conference at the DENR yesterday that he himself had been eating "pawikan," an endangered sea turtle, in Chinese restaurants.

A confessed nature lover, Querol claimed he did not know it was prohibited to catch, much less consume, the turtles.

350 endangered species

"We know there are endangered species, but we don't know what they are. Our hindsight is

that if we don't see it often and it's not familiar, we label it endangered," Querol said.

Of the Philippines' 1,130 terrestrial species, 350 are on the endangered list but only around 50 are commonly traded, according to De Castro.

The Philippines, which is among 18 megadiversity countries in the world possessing 70-80 percent of the earth's biodiversity, was also identified as a "hot spot" due to massive harvesting of wildlife.

Wild animals in the country are hunted for pets, food and traditional medicine uses. Some are even killed for displays and souvenirs, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau said.

De Castro said the DENR had visited at least 20 restaurants which were reported to be serving exotic food, such as snakes, lizards and wild boar, to check their sources of wildlife.

Environmental cops

"We need public information and awareness first to level the playing field because people will be shocked once you start arresting them for wildlife consumption," Querol said.

"Some grew up eating animals from the wild and are used to hunting, and now it's prohibited all of a sudden. They don't know—it's as simple as that," he said.

Querol said he would assign five environmental policemen in Metro Manila to focus on apprehending people engaged in wildlife trafficking.

He said the PAWB should first educate the policemen on RA 9147 and the descriptions of wildlife and endangered species.

The DENR, Philippine National Police, Manila International Airport Authority, Conservation International and 13 other agencies yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement to employ concerted efforts to stop the illegal wildlife trade.

Defensor ordered to reopen peace talks with Erap

From page A1

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, the President's handpicked conduit to Estrada, yesterday said he had been instructed to waste no time in reopening channels to Estrada for a possible reconciliation.

According to Defensor, Ms Arroyo believes that this is an "opportune time" to seek reconciliation with Estrada and other leaders of the opposition because "passions" should have died down with the completion of the impeachment process.

But Estrada himself told the INQUIRER that he was not about to reconcile with Ms Arroyo.

"It's not yet time. Just like me, she should have her day in court," he said by phone.

Estrada wanted to know "what kind of reconciliation" was being talked about.

"One week before [El Shaddai's] Brother Mike Velarde's [birthday celebration last month], he asked me to shake Ms Arroyo's hand onstage. I refused. Why do so now?" he said.

Estrada also reiterated that he was not cutting a compromise deal with the Arroyo administration that would include his release on bail or recognizance in exchange for certain political concessions for the President.

No secret deals

The House on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted to trash the impeachment case against the President, which means that any new impeachment effort cannot be launched until after a year.

Just minutes after the last lawmaker explained his vote, Ms Arroyo issued a statement stating in part: "The opposition put up a good fight and I now offer my hand in reconciliation for the national interest."

But Malacañang itself was quick to deny speculation that it had reached an agreement with Estrada regarding his detention and the plunder case against him, or that it had agreed to allow the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We don't know any secret deals," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters at a briefing. "In the first place, if it is a secret, why would I tell you? I'd just be punished [for revealing a secret]. But the truth is I really have no knowledge [of any secret deal]."

Ermita said many people were presuming that Malacañang knew why certain pro-impeachment lawmakers did not attend the plenary session or did not vote.

"It's a wrong assumption," he said.

But Ermita himself declared that Malacañang remained open to all "possibilities" in its effort to reconcile with opposition forces.

"There is nothing impossible, but I am not saying that [these] are being discussed at all," he said.

Olive branch

In Lapulapu City, the President last night offered an "olive branch of peace" to her "critics and detractors," seeking "a principled partnership for the people with a responsible governance and responsible fiscalization."

Ms Arroyo delivered her speech at the culmination of the National Summit of Religious Leaders Toward Culture of Peace at the Crown Regency Hotel.

She said she planned to leave a clear message to the United Nations Security Council that "we are all working for one Philippines just as we all have one God."

"This moment is significant for me because this is my first public appearance since yesterday. Yesterday, Congress spoke, and I thanked them," she said.

Ms Arroyo also thanked Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar, House deputy speaker in the Visayas, who was in the audience, for scheduling a marathon impeachment session.

"Congress spoke with a mighty voice for the people they represent. And I thank them," she said, adding:

"Their voice is clear. Let us work for peace, not for conflict. Let us go back to work and not to the streets but to our offices, industrial centers, in our farms and in our community. Let's bury the conflict of the past and gather around for a brighter and peaceful tomorrow.

"We must transform the weariness of our people to a fresh dynamism for action, enterprise and reform."

Getting down to work

Ms Arroyo also said she had instructed her Cabinet to buckle down to work and "let the people feel in their bones and hearts and experience the power of honest and efficient service."

"We have to work now. We have to get the budget debate underway," she said.

She also raised the need to work on Charter change: "As I extend the hand of peace to my own detractors, I will invite all Filipinos, my critics and supporters alike, to an earnest and sincere debate to amend the Constitution. Many things you want need constitutional change. Let us bring power to the people and cast out the demons that haunted our politics."

The President again gave thanks: "I am grateful to you religious leaders and many well-meaning Filipinos who have made a clear call of prudence, sobriety, dialogue, understanding and peace for these trying times."

With a report from Norman Bordadora

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY (CPA)

In view of numerous requests for copies of the Audit Reports of the Commission on Audit (COA) supporting the plunder and corruption cases now pending before the Office of the Ombudsman against Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, his wife Elenita, eight other local officials and suppliers/contractors involving P662 million of public funds, we are publishing the substantive parts of the "Summary of Audit Findings" for the information of Makati taxpayers and the public in general.

The said Audit Reports recommended "appropriate charges of conspiracy against the officials and suppliers for their participation" and the "filing of criminal/administrative charges against the City Officials involved in the anomalous transactions." Accordingly, CPA filed criminal and administrative complaints on August 20, 2003 (OMB-C-C-04-0023-A) and on October 20, 2003 (OMB-C-A-04-0031-A).

As previously published, we reiterate our request for Makati Business Club, especially its Chairman, Atty. RICARDO J. ROMULO and Executive Director GUILLERMO LUZ to help us prosecute the grafters and scoundrels in government. Their failure to act will negate their moral right to seek the resignation of any government official including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and will be interpreted as an abandonment of their responsibility to protect the interest of their taxpaying members.

To date, we continue to pray that the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, One God Almighty enlighten the mind of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to finally resolve these cases.

Following is a summary of the COA Audit Report dated April 19, 2002:

1. Almost all acts of falsification of public documents as enumerated in Article 171 in relation to Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code were evident in all transactions of Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies amounting to P70,561,700.00. The supplier resorted to tampering of product brochure, misrepresentation, manufacture of fictitious Certificate, untruthful narration of facts, misrepresentation and counterfeiting or imitating signature in order to claim/justify exclusive distributorship and for other purposes thus, avoiding the conduct of public bidding while enjoying other advantages as discussed in detail in the discussions that follow. All these acts were tainted with deceit perpetrated against the government resulting to undue injury amounting P61,249,492.72.

2. In a span of less than one (1) year, the city Government of Makati purchased one type of dry heat sterilizer through three (3) Purchase Orders (Pos) using different specifications and prices as follows:

2.1 Under PO No. 11206 dated September 28, 2000 the City bought 1 unit of Tuttanauer LSI Kwiklave 2340, made in USA, at P980,000 from Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies who claimed to be an exclusive distributor of Tuttanauer. A visit at the internet showed that the authorized exclusive distributor of Tuttanauer in the Philippines is Blue Sky Trading and the cost of LSI Kwiklave 2340 only amounts to \$2,999 (\$1=P51.598) or P154,742.40. Note that even at the level of the PO, there is already an overpricing.

2.2 On December 29, 2000, under PO No. 11482, the city again purchased 6 units of autoclaves consisting of a 3-in-1 package of dry heat sterilizer system and 3 mobile, heavy duty operation auto dry heat sterilizers described as SICOA-Benson, made in USA, at a total cost of P8,830,000.

2.3 A single unit of portable sterilizer was again purchased in April 19, 2001, under PO No. 11833, this time introduced as Medisys brand costing 650,000 made in USA. Inspection however revealed that none of the items delivered conform with PO specifications. Of the eight (8) items delivered, five (5) are actually Tau Steril portable automatic dry heat sterilizers and the remaining three (3), Tau Steril mini-automatic sterilizers, all made in Italy, none of which could be considered for heavy duty operation.

Through manipulation of the brand and description of the sterilizers, the supplier falsely claimed that he is the exclusive distributor, thereby precluding the conduct of public bidding and ultimately resulting in overpricing of the delivered sterilizers from P650,000 to as high as P1,596,384.18 for the portable automatic and P1,346,949.15 each for mini-automatic considering that the unit prices of the two items are only P16,000 and P13,500, respectively. In all three transactions, Makati paid a total of P10,460,000 for 5 units of Tau Steril Portable and 3 mini-automatic dry heat sterilizers which only cost P120,500, resulting to a total overpricing of P10,339,500.

3. Overpricing of P1,261,500 resulted in the purchase of electrocautery machine from Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies who claimed to be an exclusive SICOA. The Purchase Order involved a SICOA Valley lab heavy duty electrocautery machine at P1,320,000. What was delivered is actually a Satelec Pierre Rolland (manufacturer) product which only costs P44,000 as quoted by Pierre Rolland Philippines, excluding the table which only costs P14,500, or a difference of P1,261,500. A more complete and advance unit was purchased by the Lung Center of the Philippines in its PO Numbered 0116-99 dated May 25, 1999 at P380,000 only.

4. While the City Government of Makati intended to buy an antepartum/intrapartum twin fetal monitoring system, BDX 4/5, SICOA BENSON brand, what was delivered and eventually paid for at P2,680,000 was a single unit of Huntleigh BD4000 model only, costing no more than P538,000. The supplier perpetrated the deception through the manipulation of the features of existing models of fetal monitor by making it appear that such features are present in a non-existent model BDX 4/5 branded as SICOA BENSON, and by claiming that he is the exclusive distributor of SICOA BENSON thereby resulting to loss on the part of the government by as much as P2,142,000. The actual price paid by Makati to Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies exceeded the costs of more advanced model, BD 4002 twin antepartum and twin intrapartum amounting to P450,000 and P538,000, respectively, as offered by the real exclusive distributor of Huntleigh, NPK Medical Trading Inc.

5. The City of Makati entered into a fraudulent transaction with Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies in the supply and delivery of 188 units of hospital beds, 220 units bedside cabinets, 10 ICU beds and 4 orthopedic beds at P148,000, P17,850, P545,000 and P480,000 per unit, respectively. The price quotation offered by the supplier was issued a month and 11 days before the Price Canvass Request and even ahead of the Purchase Request. While the supplier claimed that the items were made by UGM-MEDISYS of New Jersey, USA, import documents showed that they were manufactured in Taiwan by Juhng Mei-Chya Hung Medical Treatment Instruments Factory Company Ltd. and distributed in the Philippines by Mabuhay 2000 Enterprises, Inc. The invoice issued by Juhng Mei attached to the disbursement voucher showed a total cost of US \$51,660 including other items not included in the PO, amounting to at least \$2,890. Using the conversion rate specified in the import documents, (P50.182) the total cost of items bought by Makati at P36,431,700 would only be P2,447,376.14. Actual importation duties are only P460,705. Even if a 100% profit is included, the price difference of P31,076,242.72 (580.27% of invoice cost inclusive of importation duties and estimated profit) constitutes a material loss on the part of the government.

6. In April of 2001, the City Government of Makati purchased one unit of Ultrasound machine described as SICOA-Dynaview at P7,980,000 from Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies who claimed to be an exclusive distributor. Supporting documents such as the product brochure pointed to an ALOKA Dynaview Ultrasound claimed by the supplier as made by SICOA. The supplier deliberately hid the real make of the product which is a GE RT 3200 Advantage II whose published price is only \$25,000 or P1,299,750, thereby benefiting from the transaction by as much as P6,680,250. Confirmation with GE Medical Systems revealed that the production of the said model was stopped as early as September 2000 in the whole South East Asia and that a more advanced unit is available at a cost of only P925,000 per unit as quoted by Technomed.

7. The City Government of Makati failed to implement the requirements of Rule 11, Section 105 of COA Circular 92-386 dated October 20, 1992, in its trans-

action with NPK Medical Trading, consisting of one (1) set of Olympus Endoscopic Video Information System, Evis Exera 160 at P12,876,750, one (1) choledocofiberscope model CHF T20 at P1,739,365.20 and one (1) set of Olympus Lap Chole costing P7,785,981.45. Although the purchase order was awarded to NPK, being the "Sole Distributor," the certificate issued by the Pharmedic Corporation, the real exclusive distributor, disclosed that NPK is the "Sole Distributor" only in Manila. Independent price verification revealed that the items only cost P5,901,800, P613,274 and P4,439,180, respectively, as quoted by the real exclusive distributor of Olympus Singapore, The Pharmedic Corporation, resulting to undue injury to the government in terms of overpricing by as much as P11,447,842.65.

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9. Payment amounting to P1,600,000 for one (1) unit universal X-ray was made despite the absence of the equipment as described in the supporting documents to the disbursement voucher for payment. Documents were falsified in order to make it appear that indeed delivery was made. Actual plant inspection disclosed an entirely new item intended for delivery to Makati City on September 26, 2001, a day after the audit team conducted an inspection at the City Hall that led to the discovery of the missing X-ray machine. Said item was found to be manufactured only on June 2001 and in fact shipped to the Philippines in July 2001 while the PO was drawn as early as December 29, 1999 and paid on March 13, 2000.

10. Purchase price of computers and air conditioning units, although obtained thru public bidding, were excessive. Computers and printers were purchased from the winning bidder, MICRO SERVER Information System at P7,229,645. The same supplier however, quoted for only P2,394,175 for the same set of items, or an overpricing of P4,835,470. A review of related quotations submitted to Commission on Audit (COA) in its 1999 bidding shows that the prices of COMPAQ Deskpro EP Pentium III 500Mhz with hard disk ranging from 6 Gb to 10 Gb, ranged between P52,000 to P54,000. The City Government of Makati purchased exactly the same brand and model but with lower specifications at P129,960 each sometime in July 2001. On the other hand, airconditioning units were purchased from K SERVICIO TRADE, INC. at a total price of P16,800,400. The same supplier however, quoted for only P6,655,022 (inclusive of installation) for the same items, resulting to an overpricing of P10,145,378.

11. At least two units of dental chair were purchased by the Local Government of Makati from the exclusive distributor of Hallim Dental products at P600,000 each, although there was a price offer of Dental Systems, Inc. of only P518,000 per unit attached to the disbursement voucher. Quotation obtained by the team from the same supplier showed the offered price of only P350,000 each for exactly the same item, resulting to an overpricing of P250,000 for each item or a total of P500,000. Despite the fact that the unit was obtained thru exclusive distributor, no certification by the supplier was attached as required under Section 105 of COA Circular 92-386 dated October 20, 1992.

12. A sound system, a six (6)- wheeler truck and three (3) buses purchased using exclusive distributor as a mode of procurement were overpriced by as much as P734,416, P505,000 and P1,650,000 respectively. There was no certificate of exclusive distributorship attached to the disbursement vouchers contrary to the requirement of Section 105 of COA Circular 92-386 dated October 20, 1992. The sound system obtained from Audiophile Components Incorporated at P1,125,696 only costs P391,280 per the quotation submitted by the same supplier. The 6-wheeler diesel engine truck purchased from PILHINO SALES CORPORATION at a cost of P2,900,000 only costs P2,395,000 as quoted by the same supplier. The price canvass request appeared to be a confirmation by the supplier of the prices fixed by Makati as the document appeared to be already filled up with the specifications of the item to be purchased and their corresponding prices. The supplier only needs to affix his signature. (Annex R) On the other hand, three (3) Hino RK3H buses were purchased from the same source at a total amount of P13,950,000 or P4,650,000 each. The same supplier quoted only P12,300,000 or P4,100,000 each, resulting to an overpricing of P1,650,000.

13. In a transaction involving the supply of two (2) units UGM MEDISYS System Cryosurgical Unit and Volumetric Pressure Pump (Thoracic Cylinder Apparatus) amounting to P9,900,000, only the latter was delivered costing at least P75,000 each. The purchase order attached to the payment voucher showed the inserted words "Cryosurgical Unit and," however, the same document presented by the store keeper and a copy of the Sales Invoice showed only the two (2) units of volumetric pressure pump, consistent with what was presented during the inspection of the audit team. Under the circumstances, it is very clear that the officials involved cooperated with the supplier, causing undue injury to the government in the amount of P9,750,000.00, in the form of ghost delivery.

Following is a Summary of the COA Audit Report dated September 24, 2002:

The biddings on and awards through negotiation/repeat order of five (5) Purchase Orders to Office Gallery International, Inc. and Asia Concept International, Inc. for the supply and installation of the office partitions, connectors, and furniture for the New Makati City Hall building, in the total amount of P231,576,189.71, were highly irregular. The alleged biddings were participated in by bidders, one of which owns the other(s), award was made ahead of the date of bidding, a repeat order was made beyond the reglementary period and based on a Purchase Order resulting from a rigged bidding, negotiated prices were higher than the prices offered by another supplier (price difference of P296,827.77), all suppliers quoted for exactly the same descriptions and number/quantity of items in spite of the absence of an approved furniture layout plan and a list of furniture, partitions, and connectors with specific descriptions and number/quantities among others. The transactions were found to be excessive both in price and quantity resulting in undue injury to the government amounting to P110,249,869.07 (P54,202,466.31 + P56,047,402.76) representing the amount of overpricing and excess quantity purchased.

For further information, please contact Bobby Brillante, CPA Convenor, at Kalayaan Foundation Inc./Telefax 881-6028

Adv

Defensor ordered to reopen peace talks with Erap

From page A1

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, the President's handpicked conduit to Estrada, yesterday said he had been instructed to waste no time in reopening channels to Estrada for a possible reconciliation.

According to Defensor, Ms Arroyo believes that this is an "opportune time" to seek reconciliation with Estrada and other leaders of the opposition because "passions" should have died down with the completion of the impeachment process.

But Estrada himself told the INQUIRER that he was not about to reconcile with Ms Arroyo.

"It's not yet time. Just like me, she should have her day in court," he said by phone.

Estrada wanted to know "what kind of reconciliation" was being talked about.

"One week before [El Shaddai's] Brother Mike Velarde's [birthday celebration last month], he asked me to shake Ms Arroyo's hand onstage. I refused. Why do so now?" he said.

Estrada also reiterated that he was not cutting a compromise deal with the Arroyo administration that would include his release on bail or recognizance in exchange for certain political concessions for the President.

No secret deals

The House on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted to trash the impeachment case against the President, which means that any new impeachment effort cannot be launched until after a year.

Just minutes after the last lawmaker explained his vote, Ms Arroyo issued a statement stating in part: "The opposition put up a good fight and I now offer my hand in reconciliation for the national interest."

But Malacañang itself was quick to deny speculation that it had reached an agreement with Estrada regarding his detention and the plunder case against him, or that it had agreed to allow the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We don't know any secret deals," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters at a briefing. "In the first place, if it is a secret, why would I tell you? I'd just be punished [for revealing a secret]. But the truth is I really have no knowledge [of any secret deal]."

Ermita said many people were presuming that Malacañang knew why certain proimpeachment lawmakers did not attend the plenary session or did not vote.

"It's a wrong assumption," he said.

But Ermita himself declared that Malacañang remained open to all "possibilities" in its effort to reconcile with opposition forces.

"There is nothing impossible, but I am not saying that [these] are being discussed at all," he said.

Olive branch

In Lapulapu City, the President last night offered an "olive branch of peace" to her "critics and detractors," seeking "a principled partnership for the people with a responsible governance and responsible fiscalization."

Ms Arroyo delivered her speech at the culmination of the National Summit of Religious Leaders Toward Culture of Peace at the Crown Regency Hotel.

She said she planned to leave a clear message to the United Nations Security Council that "we are all working for one Philippines just as we all have one God."

"This moment is significant for me because this is my first public appearance since yesterday. Yesterday, Congress spoke, and I thanked them," she said.

Ms Arroyo also thanked Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar, House deputy speaker in the Visayas, who was in the audience, for scheduling a marathon impeachment session.

"Congress spoke with a mighty voice for the people they represent. And I thank them," she said, adding:

"Their voice is clear. Let us work for peace, not for conflict. Let us go back to work and not to the streets but to our offices, industrial centers, in our farms and in our community. Let's bury the conflict of the past and gather around for a brighter and peaceful tomorrow."

"We must transform the weariness of our people to a fresh dynamism for action, enterprise and reform."

Getting down to work

Ms Arroyo also said she had instructed her Cabinet to buckle down to work and "let the people feel in their bones and hearts and experience the power of honest and efficient service."

"We have to work now. We have to get the budget debate underway," she said.

She also raised the need to work on Charter change: "As I extend the hand of peace to my own detractors, I will invite all Filipinos, my critics and supporters alike, to an earnest and sincere debate to amend the Constitution. Many things you want need constitutional change. Let us bring power to the people and cast out the demons that haunted our politics."

The President again gave thanks: "I am grateful to you religious leaders and many well-meaning Filipinos who have made a clear call of prudence, sobriety, dialogue, understanding and peace for these trying times."

With a report from Norman Bordadora

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY (CPA)

In view of numerous requests for copies of the Audit Reports of the Commission on Audit (COA) supporting the plunder and corruption cases now pending before the Office of the Ombudsman against Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, his wife Elenita, eight other local officials and suppliers/contractors involving P662 million of public funds, we are publishing the substantive parts of the "Summary of Audit Findings" for the information of Makati taxpayers and the public in general.

The said Audit Reports recommended "appropriate charges of conspiracy against the officials and suppliers for their participation" and the "filing of criminal/administrative charges against the City Officials involved in the anomalous transactions." Accordingly, CPA filed criminal and administrative complaints on August 20, 2003 (OMB-C-C-04-0023-A) and on October 20, 2003 (OMB-C-A-04-0031-A).

As previously published, we reiterate our request for Makati Business Club, especially its Chairman, Atty. RICARDO J. ROMULO and Executive Director GUILLERMO LUZ to help us prosecute the grafters and scoundrels in government. Their failure to act will negate their moral right to seek the resignation of any government official including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and will be interpreted as an abandonment of their responsibility to protect the interest of their taxpaying members.

To date, we continue to pray that the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, One God Almighty enlighten the mind of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to finally resolve these cases.

Following is a summary of the COA Audit Report dated April 19, 2002:

1. Almost all acts of falsification of public documents as enumerated in Article 171 in relation to Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code were evident in all transactions of Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies amounting to P70,561,700.00. The supplier resorted to tampering of product brochure, misrepresentation, manufacture of fictitious Certificate, untruthful narration of facts, misrepresentation and counterfeiting or imitating signature in order to claim/justify exclusive distributorship and for other purposes thus, avoiding the conduct of public bidding while enjoying other advantages as discussed in detail in the discussions that follow. All these acts were tainted with deceit perpetrated against the government resulting to undue injury amounting P61,249,492.72.

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2.1 Under PO No. 11206 dated September 28, 2000 the City bought 1 unit of Tuttnauer LSI Kwiklave 2340, made in USA, at P980,000 from Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies who claimed to be an exclusive distributor of Tuttnauer. A visit at the internet showed that the authorized exclusive distributor of Tuttnauer in the Philippines is Blue Sky Trading and the cost of LSI Kwiklave 2340 only amounts to \$2,999 (\$1=P51.598) or P154,742.40. Note that even at the level of the PO, there is already an overpricing.

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2.3 A single unit of portable sterilizer was again purchased in April 19, 2001, under PO No. 11833, this time introduced as Medisys brand costing 650,000 made in USA. Inspection however revealed that none of the items delivered conform with PO specifications. Of the eight (8) items delivered, five (5) are actually **Tau Steril portable automatic dry heat sterilizers** and the remaining three (3), **Tau Steril mini-automatic sterilizers**, all made in Italy, none of which could be considered for heavy duty operation.

Through manipulation of the brand and description of the sterilizers, the supplier falsely claimed that he is the exclusive distributor, thereby precluding the conduct of public bidding and ultimately resulting in overpricing of the delivered sterilizers from P650,000 to as high as P1,596,384.18 for the portable automatic and P1,346,949.15 each for mini-automatic considering that the unit prices of the two items are only P16,000 and P13,500, respectively. In all three transactions, Makati paid a total of P10,460,000 for 5 units of Tau Steril Portable and 3 mini-automatic dry heat sterilizers which only cost P120,500, resulting to a total overpricing of P10,339,500.

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11. At least two units of dental chair were purchased by the Local Government of Makati from the exclusive distributor of Hallim Dental products at P600,000 each, although there was a price offer of Dental Systems, Inc. of only P518,000 per unit attached to the disbursement voucher. Quotation obtained by the team from the same supplier showed the offered price of only P350,000 each for exactly the same item, resulting to an overpricing of P250,000 for each item or a total of P500,000. Despite the fact that the unit was obtained thru exclusive distributor, no certification by the supplier was attached as required under Section 105 of COA Circular 92-386 dated October 20, 1992.

12. A sound system, a six (6)- wheeler truck and three (3) buses purchased using exclusive distributor as a mode of procurement were overpriced by as much as P734,416, P505,000 and P1,650,000 respectively. There was no certificate of exclusive distributorship attached to the disbursement vouchers contrary to the requirement of Section 105 of COA Circular 92-386 dated October 20, 1992. The sound system obtained from Audiophile Components Incorporated at P1,125,696 only costs P391,280 per the quotation submitted by the same supplier. The 6-wheeler diesel engine truck purchased from PILHINO SALES CORPORATION at a cost of P2,900,000 only costs P2,395,000 as quoted by the same supplier. The price canvass request appeared to be a confirmation by the supplier of the prices fixed by Makati as the document appeared to be already filled up with the specifications of the item to be purchased and their corresponding prices. The supplier only needs to affix his signature. (Annex R) On the other hand, three (3) Hino RK3H buses were purchased from the same source at a total amount of P13,950,000 or P4,650,000 each. The same supplier quoted only P12,300,000 or P4,100,000 each, resulting to an overpricing of P1,650,000.

13. In a transaction involving the supply of two (2) units UGM MEDISYS System Cryosurgical Unit and Volumetric Pressure Pump (Thoracic Cylinder Apparatus) amounting to P9,900,000, only the latter was delivered costing at least P75,000 each. The purchase order attached to the payment voucher showed the inserted words "Cryosurgical Unit and," however, the same document presented by the store keeper and a copy of the Sales Invoice showed only the two (2) units of volumetric pressure pump, consistent with what was presented during the inspection of the audit team. Under the circumstances, it is very clear that the officials involved cooperated with the supplier, causing undue injury to the government in the amount of P9,750,000.00, in the form of ghost delivery.

Following is a Summary of the COA Audit Report dated September 24, 2002:

The biddings on and awards through negotiation/repeat order of five (5) Purchase Orders to Office Gallery International, Inc. and Asia Concept International, Inc. for the supply and installation of the office partitions, connectors, and furniture for the New Makati City Hall building, in the total amount of P231,576,189.71, were highly irregular. The alleged biddings were participated in by bidders, one of which owns the other(s), award was made ahead of the date of bidding, a repeat order was made beyond the reglamentary period and based on a Purchase Order resulting from a rigged bidding, negotiated prices were higher than the prices offered by another supplier (price difference of P296,827.77), all suppliers quoted for exactly the same descriptions and number/quantity of items in spite of the absence of an approved furniture layout plan and a list of furniture, partitions, and connectors with specific descriptions and number/quantities among others. The transactions were found to be excessive both in price and quantity resulting in undue injury to the government amounting to P110,249,869.07 (P54,202,466.31 + P56,047,402.76) representing the amount of overpricing and excess quantity purchased.

For further information, please contact Bobby Brillante, CPA Convenor, at Kalayaan Foundation Inc./Telefax 881-6028

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush vows probe into Katrina response

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Tuesday promised to investigate "what went wrong" with the government's response to Hurricane Katrina but turned a deaf ear to calls for firing key aides involved.

"What I intend to do is to lead an investigation to find out what went right and what went wrong," he said after a cabinet meeting, noting that the response to Katrina boded ill for any response to a terrorist attack in the future.

But White House spokesperson Scott McClellan refused to say when the probe would start or whether Bush backed an independent investigation like the one into intelligence failures ahead of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Asked about calls for officials to be held accountable for mistakes, McClellan replied: "There is a time to look at those issues. Now is not the time," because doing so would siphon resources away from disaster relief.

Bush, who signed a \$10.5-billion emergency

aid package Friday, was to ask lawmakers for another \$40-50 billion within the next 24 hours, said the top opposition Democrat in the US Senate, minority leader Harry Reid.

"This situation, as a result of the flooding, is costing American taxpayers more than the Iraq war is costing on a daily basis," Reid said at the White House after meeting with Bush.

Bush also said Vice President Dick Cheney would travel to afflicted areas on Thursday to assess recovery efforts and cut any bureaucratic red tape keeping help from survivors. First Lady Laura Bush was due to travel there as well.

"Bureaucracy's not going to stand in the way of getting the job done," said Bush, who cited search and recovery efforts, restoring basic services, draining flooded areas and responding to any public health threat as key priorities.

Bush, who has drawn fire over what critics say was Washington's sluggish and confused reaction to the killer storm, dismissed calls to fire officials such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) head Mike Brown.

"I think that one of the things that people want us to do here is to play a blame game," the president said. "We're problem solvers. There'll be ample time for people to figure out what went right

and what went wrong." "It's very important for us to understand the relationship between the federal government, the state government and the local government when it comes to a major catastrophe," he said.

"And the reason it's important is that we still live in an unsettled world. We want to make sure that we can respond properly if there's a WMD (weapons of mass destruction) attack or another major storm," said Bush.

Bush was silent on what he thought of planned congressional hearings into Washington's actions or whether he endorsed Democratic Sen. Hillary Clinton's call for a special investigative commission modeled on the panel that explored intelligence failures ahead of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Critics have called Brown's response to the disaster in New Orleans a "national disgrace," and the Times-Picayune called for every FEMA employee to be fired—"Director Michael Brown, especially." "FEMA has been a total failure in this instance," said Reid.

Bush, who in a Friday photo opportunity said Brown was doing "a heck of a job," said a key goal now was to make sure that the tens of thousands of people forced from their homes would receive their regular government benefits. **AFP**

Katrina shifts Americans' attention from Iraq war

WASHINGTON—HURRICANE Katrina's devastating blow has put a spotlight on the military's helping hand and largely diverted Americans' attention from the mix of grim and hopeful events playing out in Iraq.

Even as thousands more troops poured into Louisiana and Mississippi on Tuesday to accelerate the search and rescue of stranded Katrina survivors, military officials in Iraq reported the deaths of four more US troops and Marine jets bombed targets near the Syrian border where al-Qaida has expanded its presence.

Iraq developments were not all bad — US-trained Iraqi forces assumed control of a city that saw bitter fighting last year. But the shift to news images of troops performing urgent humanitarian missions on the Gulf Coast has overshadowed what was a major headache for President George W. Bush's administration: a growing public impatience with the war.

"Iraq must be doing really well — I'm not reading anything about it in the papers," joked Dan Gourie, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute think tank, reflecting the

complaint of many administration officials that media coverage of the Iraq war has largely focused on the death and destruction.

At a Pentagon news conference Tuesday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld stressed that the enormous effort being made in hurricane relief will not diminish the military's ability to fight wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"Let me be clear: We have the forces, the capability and the intention to fully prosecute the global war on terror while responding to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis here at home. We can and will do both," Rumsfeld said.

During the news conference, no one asked about developments in Iraq, such as the airstrikes near the border city of Qaim, major parts of which have fallen under control of al-Qaida-linked foreign fighters.

Iraqi officials and residents say al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has taken over parts of Qaim.

Gourie said he found the situation in Qaim particularly troublesome, given that the city has been a problem for US forces in the past. **AP**

Saddam confessed to crimes, says Iraqi president

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S PRESIDENT SAID THAT Saddam Hussein had confessed to killings and other "crimes" committed during his regime, including the massacre of thousands of Kurds in the late 1980s.

President Jalal Talabani told Iraqi television Tuesday that he had been informed by an investigating judge that "he was able to extract confessions from Saddam's mouth" about crimes "such as executions" which the ousted leader had personally ordered.

Asked about specific examples, Talabani, a Kurd, replied "Anfal," the codename for the 1987-88 campaign which his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan maintains led to the deaths of about 182,000 Kurds and the destruction of "dozens of Kurdish villages."

Those villages included Halabja, where thousands of Kurdish villagers were gassed in 1988.

However, Abdel Haq Alani, a legal consultant to Saddam's family said Saddam did not mention any confession when he met Monday with his Iraqi lawyer.

"Is this the fabrication of Talabani or what? Let's not have a trial on TV. Let the court of law, not the media, make its ruling on this," Alani said.

Saddam faces his first trial Oct. 19 for his alleged role in another atrocity — the 1982 massacre of Shiites in Dujail, a town north of Baghdad, following an assassination attempt there against him.

The Iraqi Special Tribunal has decided to conduct trials on separate alleged offenses rather than lump them all together in a single proceeding.

Saddam could face the death penalty if convicted in the Dujail case, the only one referred to trial so far.

Iraqi television aired the interview so late that it was impossible to reach Saddam's lawyer, Khalil al-Dulaimi, or officials of the special tribunal.

Alani, however, condemned Talabani's remarks and said the alleged confession "comes to me as a surprise, a big surprise."

"I have heard nothing whatsoever about this alleged media speculation," Alani told The Associated Press in Amman, Jordan. "This is a matter for the judiciary to decide on, not for politicians and Jalal should know better than that. Why should he make a statement on the accused to the public? The court, the judge need to decide on this." **AP**

Several militants killed in Saudi battle

RIYADH—SAUDI SECURITY FORCES stormed a suspect al-Qaida hideout in the eastern city of Dammam Tuesday, ending three days of gunbattles that saw four Saudi security men and a number of suspects killed.

Five presumed militants were reported killed before the raid.

In a terse statement, the interior ministry said security forces had "ended their operations," which began Sunday in the main city of the oil-rich Eastern Province, losing four men, in addition to 10 wounded.

Government forces "are securing and purging the site (of the siege) where charred remains" were found, it said without giving the number of suspected militants killed.

The ministry promised more details later, but its reference to "charred remains" suggested some of the militants had blown themselves up. An official earlier said five militants, in addition to two policemen, were killed in the confrontation, which started with a shootout in another neighborhood Sunday.

That toll preceded the storming of the hideout in the Al-Hamra district of Dammam, which is located near the oil center of Dhahran. **AFP**



A STATUE of the Virgin Mary, covered in mud after Hurricane Katrina, sits on a table in St. Patrick's church Sept. 6 in Port Sulphur, Louisiana. Eleven people roared out the storm at the church, all making it out to safety. **AFP**

Japanese spacecraft nears asteroid target

CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND—Rivals from the United States and Europe get the bigger headlines and bigger budgets, but a little-noticed Japanese mission to a distant space rock may scoop them all.

Launched to the world's near-total indifference on May 9, 2003, the little probe Hayabusa ("Falcon") is now on the brink of rendezvousing with a 630-meter asteroid on a mission that could prove historic.

If all goes well, Hayabusa will be the first spacecraft to bring home raw material from an asteroid, part of the primeval rubble left over from the making of the Solar System.

"It is an utterly remarkable project which has been given almost little coverage in the media," Patrick Michel, a French astrophysicist who is involved in the mission, told AFP on Monday at a meeting of astronomers here.

"Understanding the chemical composition of asteroids will

help us to understand how the planets were made. But the only asteroids we see on Earth are as scorched remains, as meteorites, not the raw substance itself," Hayabusa, driven by an ion engine, a slow-but-steady form of propulsion which leaves maximum volume for scientific instruments, is now just 750 km from the asteroid Itokawa, the mission website (www.jaxa.jp) of the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), said on Monday. In November comes the white-knuckle part of the mission, said Michel, who works at the Cote d'Azur Observatory in southern France and with the French National Centre for Space Research (CNRS).

Hayabusa will gingerly manoeuvre itself to within a few meters of Itokawa and then fire a projectile weighing about five grams (1/5th of an ounce) into the surface at a speed of 300 meters per second, or around 1,800 km an hour. **AFP**

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Section I: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippines

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- The Government Service Insurance System, through the approved Corporate Budget (Public Affairs - PR and Advertisement) for CY 2005, intends to apply the sum of NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PESOS (P987,350.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the PRINTING OF THE 2006 GSIS MINDER. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The Government Service Insurance System now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the PRINTING OF THE 2006 GSIS DAILY MINDER. Delivery of Daily Minder is required by October 31, 2005. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section C of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The GSIS Physical Resources Bids and Awards Committee (PRBAC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 22, 2005 between 9:00 - 9:30 am. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms:

FORM OF BID SECURITY	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract of Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check	One Percent (1%) (Php 9,873.50)
Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2½%) (Php 24,683.75)

and in the amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

- Bid opening shall be on September 22, 2005 at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level -1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- The GSIS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Enriqueta P. Disuanco
 Executive Vice President and
 Chairperson, PRBAC

Name of Officer
 Government Service Insurance System

Name of Office
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Postal/Street Address
 891-63-71

Telefax Number

(Sgd.) ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO
 Exec. Vice Pres. & Chairperson
 PRBAC

(PDI - September 1 & 8, 2005)

Engine failure probed in Indonesia air crash

MEDAN, INDONESIA —Investigators probing the crash of jetliner in northern Indonesia said Wednesday engine failure could be to blame as authorities prepared to bury dozens of the 150 casualties in a mass grave.

Workers combing the wreckage of the Mandala Airlines Boeing 737-200 which crashed Monday in the northern city of Medan found a damaged fan blade, a fault that may

indicate problems with the plane's fuel combustion process.

"We found that the fan blade engine was in a damaged condition visually. We also found that the three screw jack actuators came loose from a flap and the wing," Setio Raharjo, who heads a team of investigators from the National Transportation Safety Committee, told AFP.

However, Raharjo said it was too early to reach a conclusion and

warned that analysis of the 'black box' flight recorders would take time. "No conclusion can be drawn yet. We are still conducting the investigation," Raharjo said.

The Jakarta-bound flight slammed into a suburb of Indonesia's third largest city Monday, seconds after taking off from the city's airport, killing 103 of the 117 people on board and 47 people on the ground.

As bodies over-

flowed the city's morgue, officials prepared Wednesday to bury at least 30 victims in a mass grave near Medan airport.

Forensic experts halted identification efforts at the Adam Malik hospital, with 110 bodies identified and samples taken from the remains of 33 others so far recovered.

Coffins will be numbered and systematically laid at the bottom of the grave for future

retrieval if needed, said Muhammad Arief Siregar, one of the experts.

The bodies will be buried next to another mass grave for the victims of a 1996 Garuda Airlines crash that killed 234 people. AFP

5-year-old boy survives plane mishap

MEDAN, INDONESIA —As weeping relatives prepared Wednesday for the mass burial of unidentified victims of an Indonesian jetliner crash that killed 148 people, one mother and father were quietly celebrating: Their 5-year-old son, who had been given up for dead, was found alive in a hospital.

"It's a miracle," said the boy's father, Tagor Pandjaitan, who was traveling to Jakarta with Pento when the Boeing 737-200 started shaking violently seconds after takeoff. "Pento was sitting next to me and I grabbed onto him. Then I looked out the window and saw that the wing was on fire and suddenly flames shot into my face," the 38-year-old father said. "I collapsed, when I woke up he was gone. I was sure he was dead."

Pento's name was initially on an official list of victims, but his 36-year-old mother Maulina did not give up hope. She went

from hospital to hospital, finding her son at Santa Elizabeth's 13 hours after the plane went down in a fiery ball.

"I feel very lucky," she said. "It's truly miraculous."

Only 16 people

aboard the flight survived. Some said the plane shook violently after lifting off the runway and veered left before crashing to the ground. Some described a loud bang while the aircraft was still in flight, but offi-

cials were quick to rule out terrorism.

Investigators were sifting through the charred wreckage of the Mandala Airlines plane, trying to determine why it crashed onto a crowded street in the city of Medan, creating a path of destruction as it plowed into houses, cars, and pedestrians. AP

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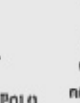
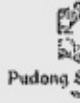
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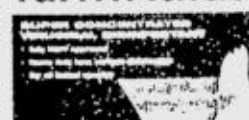
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MESSAGE TO THE

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THE OUTCOME MUST BE RESPECTED.

THE FUTURE MUST BE WON.

1. There was consensus on the need to submit all the issues that divide the nation. That consensus bound all of us to the outcome. Last Tuesday, an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives found insufficient basis to proceed further in the effort to impeach the President. We accept this decision.
2. As citizens of a democratic nation, we accept this decision.
3. We strongly disagree with the continuing effort of a noisy minority to keep the impeachment process alive. The only possible outcome is to make political turbulence permanent.
4. We strongly disagree with the continuing effort to take the issues to the streets and create communist or military governments.
5. It is the nation that will suffer the final cost of this malicious partisanship and of personal political ambitions and destructive ideological obsession.

Tama na! Sobra na! Ibalik na!

We are peace-loving Filipinos and we firmly believe:

- That as one people, we can build a free, secure, democratic, unified, and prosperous country, at peace with itself, its neighbors and with the world;
 - That President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is our duly-elected President, with the constitutional right and duty to serve the Filipino people;
 - That we should give room for the government to implement its agenda for political and economic reforms, with social focus on the economy;
 - That the impeachment process and the rule of law should take its course as provided for by the Constitution and the rules set by Congress.
 - That public participation in the on-going consultations for charter change is necessary to help craft a better future for Filipino people.
- This constitutional change must happen now.
- That we, the people, should work together with the government to build a prosperous economy with thriving private and public sectors, attractive and open to investments, that integrates the country into the regional and international community, and provides jobs, housing, education, and healthcare and other economic opportunities for all Filipinos.

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						Nicky Cienpente	

FILIPINO PEOPLE

FROM OVER 600 TOP INDEPENDENT WOMEN IN CIVIL SOCIETY:

IT, FAIR AND VIEWED OVER NATIONWIDE TV

HUWAG NANG MAGMARTSA-MARTSA!

THE NATION MUST MOVE ON.

Let us to adjudication through an impeachment process.
An overwhelming majority of our representatives decided there was
no president.

to discredit the process of institutional adjudication.
not and thus impair our nation's ability to heal the wounds of division.
extra constitutional venues. We reject outright any attempt to force GMA's ouster

an effort. It is our people's future that will be ultimately sacrificed on the altar

IS:
ang katahimikan at katatagan!

CONCERNED FILIPINOS' DECALOGUE - AUGUST 2005 WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY AND WE FIRMLY BELIEVE:

- THAT UNITED, WE CAN EARN THE ESTEEM OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS;
- THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN COME UP WITH A CITIZENRY THAT IS DECENTLY FED, CLOTHED, SHELTERED, AND SCHOOLED;
- THAT MEDIA--- OBJECTIVE BUT INSPIRING, CRITICAL YET ENCOURAGING---CAN BE CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERS IN NATION-BUILDING, PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FILIPINO TALENT WILL FLOURISH AND SERVE SOCIETY AT LARGE;
- THAT OUR PEOPLE, WITH THE ABOVE BASICS, CAN BECOME PRODUCTIVE, FULFILLED INDIVIDUALS, PROUD OF BEING FILIPINOS, CONTENT TO REMAIN IN THE LAND OF THEIR BIRTH;
- THAT PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO (PGMA) AS OUR DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT, WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AND DUTY TO SERVE OUT HER TERM, CAN WITH GOD'S GRACE AND OUR HELP BRING ABOUT THE ABOVE SITUATION;
- THAT THE PRESENT UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES HURLED AGAINST PGMA WITH ILLEGALLY OBTAINED "EVIDENCE" PRESENTED BY PEOPLE OF QUESTIONABLE REPUTE ARE FLimsy GROUNDS THAT CANNOT MERIT A DEMAND FOR HER RESIGNATION;
- THAT TO NEGATE THE DAMAGE DONE TO PGMA'S POSITION, THE ACCUSATIONS VS. PGMA UNDERGO A FAIR LEGAL PROCESS THAT CAN SERVE TO UNITE ALL FILIPINOS TOWARD NATIONHOOD;
- THAT THE PAINFUL POLITICAL SIEGE PGMA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO CAN STRENGTHEN HER RESOLVE TO PURSUE REFORMS WITH GREATER DETERMINATION;
- THAT QUICK FIXES AND EXTRA-LEGAL POWER GRABS CAN NEVER OFFER ANY LASTING SOLUTIONS TO POLITICAL AND OTHER WOES;
- THAT WITH TIME AND SWEAT, TEARS AND PAIN, PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION, WE CAN WITH GOD'S HELP BRING ABOUT OUR REDEMPTION.

Signatures (Part II)

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OPINION

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Gloria's day

RELIEVED AND ELATED BY THE DECISION OF THE House of Representatives to dismiss the three impeachment complaints filed against her, President Macapagal-Arroyo urged the nation Tuesday to "move on to a brighter tomorrow." She hailed the 158-51 vote upholding the recommendation of the House justice committee as a "grand display of political maturity" by the congressmen and said it "seals our stability and resilience as a nation." That day, she added, was "a glorious day in history" that saw a President being retained "through voting in the halls of constitutional democracy" instead of being ousted through people power.

EDITORIAL It would have been more fitting to call it Gloria's day. For only the President and her loyal allies seemed in the mood to celebrate the results of the vote last Tuesday, much less toast the mindless loyalty that her congressional allies put on display.

The Constitution gives the House all of 60 session days to discuss and decide impeachment complaints. The justice committee finished its work in 14 days, 12 of which were wasted on debating anything and everything but the very serious charges made against the President, including cheating in and stealing the last presidential elections. When it buckled down to real business, the committee set aside the stronger amended complaint put together by the opposition, and chose to consider the poorly prepared complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano, saying it was the first to be filed.

Some legal luminaries had pointed out that what was barred by the Constitution was not the filing of other complaints but a second impeachment proceeding within one year. But pro-administration members of the committee insisted they were one and the same. Then they threw out the original Lozano complaint for "insufficiency of substance."

The House as a whole could have overturned that funny committee decision by a vote of one-third of its members, but Malacañang saw to it that the opposition couldn't gather the 79 votes they needed. Calls were reportedly made to congressmen, pork barrel funds increased, high positions offered or actually given to relatives and friends of lawmakers and other promises made to ensure that they voted against impeachment. And but for one party-list congressman (who would later withdraw his signature from the impeachment complaint), no one found anything wrong with such blatant attempts to influence and corrupt the members of a supposedly co-equal body as well as the impeachment process.

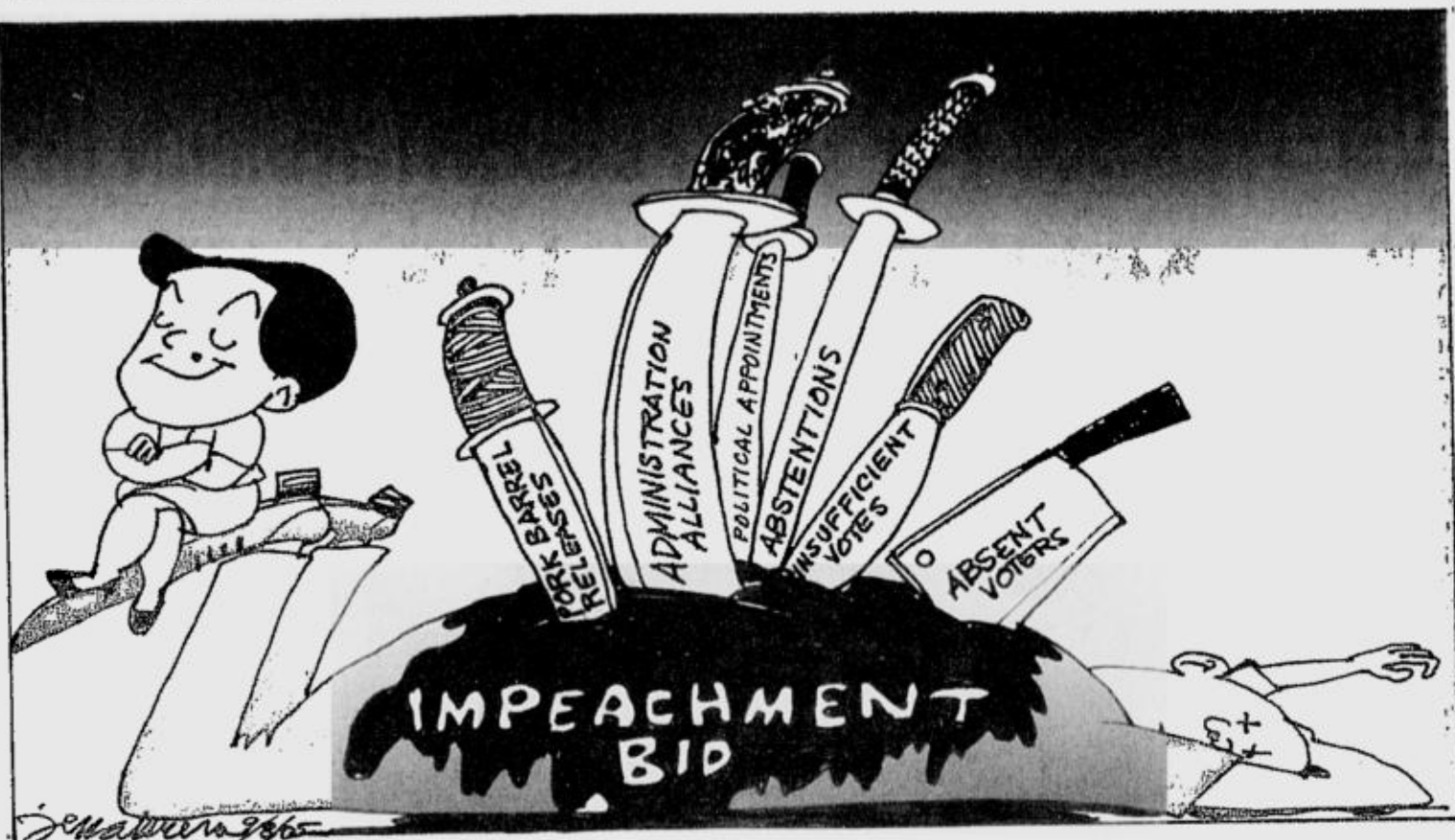
When it was time for the entire House to vote, the reasons most often cited by administration lawmakers for trashing the impeachment was that it was what their constituents wanted. How did they come to that conclusion when surveys have shown that a big majority of Filipinos want Ms Arroyo impeached?

Another reason given was that the impeachment is a political process and so they must toe the party line. If this were so, then impeachment is a toothless and useless process. A president, who has a firm hold on the majority in Congress, can commit any crime without fear of losing his position. Conversely, a president that doesn't have a majority can be removed for the flimsiest of reasons.

Strangely, this notion that impeachment is nothing more than a numbers game has gained currency. And that is how the administration allies in the House played it. And they call such slavish, mindless loyalty a "grand display of political maturity"? What the House vote last Tuesday showed was not democracy in action but the failure to function of the one institutional process to redress wrongdoing in the highest office.

When the President challenged her political foes to "bring their grievance to Congress," many welcomed it, assuming she was willing to submit to the process (laid down by the Constitution) of determining wrongdoing at the highest levels of government. But it looks like she and her allies quickly moved to subvert it.

Now the process of ascertaining the truth and seeking justice is back to where it was before she hurled that challenge—in the streets. And many among those who thought our laws and institutions should be given the chance to work are starting to link hands with those who had declared from the start that such avenue was closed. Ms Arroyo may think the worst is over, but very few others see a "brighter tomorrow" of peace and stability in the days or even months ahead.



The youth of senility

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



REMEMBER the old fable we heard as kids—about the rooster that keeled over from disbelief? No?

This rooster fooled itself, just as people in power tend to do, whether President or cop. This cock came to believe the sun would rise only after it crowed. Everything went well—until it overslept. Then, the newly awakened capon staggered incredulously into brilliant sunshine—and collapsed.

"The cemetery is full of indispensable men." That's the moral that Charles de Gaulle aptly pointed out.

Class reunions or family anniversaries, not just People Power or impeachment, can underscore how fleeting everything is. We attended one such anniversary last week. There, we found our earlier wisecracks, about folk "past their prime," now refer to us.

Indeed, one's stoop, girth, bifocals and grey hair confirm we are what President Clinton calls: "junior-seniors." We prefer that to the Washington Post's "almost old" euphemism.

Associated Press first used "near-elderly" in 1978, the New York Times' William Safire recalls. This "is the fatalistic term, embraced by middle-aged demographers—those from 40 to 60 or so."

Women bridle at being dubbed as "no spring chicken," Safire continues tongue in cheek. They prefer, he says, "a certain age."

While brushing scraggly strands over bald spots, men opt for: "mature." Another euphemism is "reached maturity." And to keep "pre-geezers" young, don't tag us as "almost-old."

Well, this pre-geezers is in the youth of senility. Before I dash off an INQUIRER column now, I murmur the prayer that a former secretary at the United Nations sent: "Grant me, Good Lord, the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway; the good fortune to run into the ones I do—and the eyesight to tell the difference."

At this point of life, you discuss, with equal vehemence, presidential resignations and laser operations for eye cataracts. And you begin to appreciate the candor of a now-balding

class Romeo who admits: "I can do without sex but not without glasses." He adds: "Aging is not for sissies."

The one-liners we appreciate are laced with intimations of mortality. "In a hostage situation we'd be released first." Or "I'm wrinkled, saggy and lumpy. And that's just my left leg." Another is: "I find myself singing along with the elevator music." Or "You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it."

The jokes we swap, whether on hearing aids, blurry memories or increasingly frequent medical checkups, reflect our diminished state.

"I just bought a new hearing aid that cost me P50,000 but its state-of-the-art," this editor brags. "Really? What's the brand?" the cub reporter asks. "Twelve thirty."

Then, there's 82-year-old Antonio who got his medical checkup. A few days later, the doctor bumps into him with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. Back in office, the doctor inquires about the lady.

"Just doing what you said, Doc," Antonio explains. "Get a hot mamma and be cheerful."

"I told you no such thing," the doctor protested. "What I said was: 'You've got a heart murmur. So, be careful.'"

There was the elderly gentleman who told his friend about a new restaurant. "The food and service were great!" he gushed.

"What's the name of the place?" his friend asked.

"Sorry, I can't recall," he replied. "What do you call the long stemmed flower people give on special occasions?"

His friend replied: "You mean a rose?"

"That's it!" he exclaimed. Then, turning to

his wife, he asked: "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to the other day?"

We belong to a fading generation, whose numbers are dwindling. Many of us recall looking at the business-end of a Japanese bayonet. Some were slapped by a "Makapili" or Filipino quisling. Still, others were confronted with mass-produced martial law arrest warrants, emblazoned with Juan Ponce Enrile's signature. We welcomed Edsa's heady days.

But how many today recall the laborers buried when Imelda's Film Center caved in? Were they ever exhumed, given a Christian burial? Were their families ever compensated? Who recalls Marcos' detention camps? Do we remember? Or are we a people of truncated memories?

But "all of us must remember...and open our hearts to human memory," the Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel insisted at Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp rites. "I do not want my past to become the future... of our children's generation."

The years bring insights of such experiences. We appreciate what the old Pampango proverb means: "Count your age by the number of your friends, not by the years."

And the lucky ones have grandchildren. We can confirm the truth of the old adage: "When one advances in years, God compensates by giving grandchildren."

They tell the story of a little girl on her grandfather's lap. From time to time, she'd touch his wrinkled cheek, stroke her own, then, his again. Finally, she spoke up. "Lolo, did God make you?" He replied: "Yes, hija—God made me a long time ago." She paused and asked: "Lolo, did God make me too?" "Yes, hija. God made you a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed: "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Some youngsters still follow old customs. And kiss the hands of the near-elderly. When they do, what King Lear said when Gloucester tried to kiss his hand, rises to my lips: "Let me wipe it first. It smells of mortality."

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Justice begins

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



Batasan Road to the parliament of the streets.

Congress did not douse water into the fire the other day, it poured gasoline into it. It's one of those ironies that almost make you believe heaven truly intervenes in the affairs of earth. Clearly, the reason "President Arroyo and I" killed the impeachment move was to prevent a repetition of the events that led to Erap's ouster. What triggered it then was the decision of Erap's allies in the Senate-turned-impeachment court not to open the second envelope because it threatened to doom him. In fact, their decision to not open it doomed him. Angered by what they did, the people took to the streets. And the rest, as the old folk say, is history.

To prevent that—in the inevitable form of a new impeachment court refusing to "open" the "Hello Garci" tape—"President Arroyo and I" stopped an impeachment from taking place at all. But as it has turned out, they merely hastened GMA's doom. Angered by what Congress has done, the various groups at least, if not as yet the populace, are taking to the streets. It shouldn't be long before GMA becomes, as the young folk say, history.

It's almost like that Arab story where a man is told by a seer that death awaits him on a journey to the east; he will lose his way in the desert during a sandstorm and die. So the man decides to journey to the west instead, where a band of robbers falls on him and kills him.

But I don't know that you really need to believe in destiny, or divine intervention, to see why this fate is bound to fall on GMA. Monumental wrongdoing has a way of hounding people pitilessly. Wherever they turn, they are bound to meet up with the avenging angel.

Garci may have disappeared from the face of the earth, but GMA will keep running into him wherever she turns.

Some things do trigger it. The murder of the impeachment complaint last Tuesday shares one thing with the metaphorical murder of the second envelope during Erap's time and the very literal murder of Ninoy Aquino during Marcos' time. It is a dirty finger thrust in the face of the nation. It is an act of overweening arrogance, saying as it does "We have the power, we can do any damn thing we please." No, more than that, it is an act of perversion, saying as it does, "We are the law, we can do any damn thing we please, and call it lawful."

In a country that responds powerfully to myth and symbolism, the image of Darth Venecia's storm troopers routing a small bunch of Jedi Knights holds boundless emotional provocation. I said it before, some defeats are shining victories. Some victories are merely the feeling of euphoria that people who jump off the roof of a tall building feel before they land on the cement.

Jose Rizal actually warned about it more than a century ago. We, Filipinos, have a thresh, old, he said. We can stand to have our bodies flogged, but we can't stand to have our pride pricked. The Spaniard, he said, had oppressed the *indio* for centuries, heaping abuse upon abuse on him, and the *indio* had taken it meekly. But the Spaniard did more, heaping upon him the final abuse of making him understand that he was not only powerless to stop the abuse, he deserved to be abused. And suddenly the mist that had roiled in his brain disappeared, and he woke up from his stupor seething with rage.

Rizal might have issued that warning not just to this country's foreign oppressors but to its local ones. Nearly 100 years after Rizal said that, in "The Philippines, A Century Hence," it took on the luminous words, "tama na, sobra na, palitan na."

We are hearing those words again today. It is the sound of a people rousing from stupor. Impeachment ends, justice begins.

'Walang proceso, walang asenso, walang progreso'

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OVER-whelmingly threw out the impeachment complaint in a super-marathon session that lasted over 25 hours. It set a record in our legislative history and tested the endurance and tenacity of the House members. They worked non-stop, without sleep, now and then individually going for a break to change clothes or take showers. All the majority and the minority congressmen deserve congratulations for working really hard and for conducting the proceedings in a civil and parliamentary manner. The majority bent over backwards to accommodate the minority's interminable speeches, while the latter was able to temper its great disappointment.

With the closure of the impeachment process in a transparent manner, on live TV, the nation must now abide by that decision. All lamentation about sending the complaint to the Senate is now moot and academic. The House proceeding was part and parcel of a whole constitutional process, though the result did not please some people, understandably. But we live in a democratic society governed by the Constitution, and we have to accept the House decision. As Pasay City Rep. Consuelo Dy put it vividly, "Walang proceso, walang asenso, walang progreso."

Other countries went through similar experiences in their own history. Recall that the US Supreme Court had to step in and settle the issue of who won the US presidential elections in 2000. Vice President Al Gore led in the popular vote, but the final outcome couldn't be delayed any longer to avoid a vacuum in leadership. Thus, even though votes that could tilt the electoral race either way were still coming in the pivotal state of Florida, the Supreme Court decided in favor of Bush. The American public accepted the decision and closed ranks behind Bush. Recall also that in the celebrity case of singer Michael Jackson, the American public clearly was against the jury's decision to acquit him; but it accepted that decision.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



I sat through last Monday's marathon proceeding in the House to catch the three-minute explanations of the lawmakers for their votes. If pressure was exerted on some of them, it was not readily obvious. There was also talk that former President Estrada called on those close to him to vote against GMA, although some of them didn't show up for the voting.

The anti-impeachment lawmakers gave several reasons that ran like a common thread in their arguments. Many of them affirmed that GMA won indisputably in their areas. A second reason cited was they consulted their constituencies who, accordingly, clearly wanted that their representatives throw out the complaint, so that the nation could get on with the task of rebuilding the nation. A third argument cited was the stability of the country. As Leyte Rep. Eufrocino Codilla put it, "I reject the law of the jungle," as he warned against street protests.

A large number of governors also showed up at the House last Monday evening, to support the anti-impeachment bloc and doubtless that helped the resolve of the pro-GMA congressmen. As Sorogon Rep. Jose Solis put it when he declared his vote, Gov. Raul Lee and the various mayors of his province all asked him to vote for GMA, which he did. The governors also told the media that their people just wanted to put the division behind and get on with the healing process.

But now, unfortunately, there is a clear attempt by a minority in our society to discredit the impeachment process which has come to an end. The administration has been accused of exerting pressure to influence the vote, but pressure was

obviously exerted by both sides. Senate President Franklin Drilon was cited by Liberal Party Rep. Florencio Vargas of Cagayan as having pressured him to sign the complaint.

It would be naive not to think that GMA wouldn't move to fight for her political life. What the opposition wanted GMA to do could be likened to a boxer who was enticed to join a fight so that he could just go to a corner to take all the blows.

But more than this is the sorry move of former President Cory Aquino to lead the street protests because she and her followers cannot accept the House's "closure" of the case, as this allegedly did not ferret out the "truth." As former President she ought to uphold the Constitution that was drafted under her rule. At the Batasan last Tuesday evening, a veteran of the Ninoy protest rallies came back to the session hall in near tears. She saw Ms Aquino walk out in the company of Sandra Cam, the confessed *jueteng* "bag lady" recruited by Sen. Panfilo Lacson to testify at the Senate *jueteng* hearings. Said this lady from the Visayas: "Cory was our icon at Edsa. Now, she marches arm-in-arm with the relics of the Marcos era, the ultra rightists and the leftists who sought to 'rabble-rouse' the striking workers at Hacienda Luisita." In a recent column, Star's Max Soliven also mourned Ms Aquino's call to her "friends" in the military to join their protests.

Ms Aquino and the opposition clamor for the "truth" behind election fraud allegations. But these allegations are based on illegally acquired tapes that, experts say, have been tampered with and whose source has not been identified. Other bases of the allegations include testimonies given in congressional hearings by disreputable characters, or in the media by former Cabinet members with their own unexplained baggage of accountabilities. But what is the "truth"? As Malabon Rep. Ricky Sandoval put it at the House voting: "My truth might not be the truth for others. But what is important are the collective votes in the impeachment process."

number of cases has grown in the past decade.

Through Prothom Alo, Rahman has called on the nation to respond. Through daily appeals, Rahman declared war on acid throwers and pleaded to readers to contribute to the Prothom Alo Aid Fund for acid victims.

With scarred and disfigured acid victims lending their voices, Rahman solicited donations at rallies and press conferences. He also called upon celebrities and volunteers to spread the appeal throughout the country. In no time, word spread, and Bangladeshis at home and abroad gave their share. Rahman acknowledged each small share in the newspaper and channeled donations directly to the victims.

Donations were used for burn treatments, plastic surgery, legal fees, living expenses, new dwellings for some, and income-generating assets such as milking cows, sewing machines, land, shops, etc.

Prothom Alo also kept the pressure on the government to strengthen laws against acid attacks and the unregulated sale of dangerous chemicals. In 2002, Bangladesh's Acid Crimes Prevention Act and Acid Control Act stiffened penalties for acid throwers and tightened licensing requirements for acid sale.

The public's response to Prothom Alo's appeals affirmed Rahman's belief that "society is not sleeping." By June 2005, some 8.2 million taka (Bangladesh money) had been poured to over 100 acid throwing victims.

Rahman has since widened his advocacy and has taken up issues related to HIV-AIDS, drug abuse and Muslim extremists. His vigilance does not come without a price. Rahman is regularly harassed and threatened, and the government has withdrawn advertising from Prothom Alo and even haled him to court for the paper's critical reporting.

A man with an easy smile, Rahman takes it all in stride. For him, Prothom Alo is the people's "hope against hope." He says: "I work to use it for the cause of the people."

Hold on to your *prothom alo*, your first light.

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

'Prothom alo' (first light)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



for breaking news in the bizarre forest of politics and economics? All those strikes and speeches, do they mean anything? In fact, how important are they compared to this tragedy? And how many times will this continue? Why should one burn someone's face with acid?

Rahman left the office with the sub-editor and rushed to the hospital. He recalled seeing doctors, the police and reporters gathered around. Rahman was one of them, a spectator. He could smell the burnt flesh. The victim's face had third-degree burns from hydrochloric acid.

The girl was just 15. As the story went, she refused the advances of the son of a local don. Slighted, the guy made good his revenge by throwing acid on the girl while she was studying by the window of her home.

"Can't we do something?" Rahman challenged his staff as soon as he got back to the office.

Prothom Alo continues to loudly cry against acid throwing, a crime committed against women who are supposed to have offended their male attackers when they denied them sex, marriage or suitable dowries. Many women are also maimed and disfigured in this manner because of family feuds, land disputes or local rivalries.

When splashed on the face, the acid burns the skin and affects the facial bones and eyes, leaving victims permanently disfigured. Acid commonly used in jewelry, tannery and battery shops is highly corrosive.

According to Rahman, some 300 people are disfigured in acid throwing incidents every year. Unlike bride burning (by throwing gas) in India which has been a criminal practice for a long time, acid throwing is new to Bangladesh. The

'How baboy naman they are'

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



lying cry is, *iQue asco!* How yucky *naman* the opposition! How *desgusto* they feel about Cory (why do our maids keep watching that Kris?) and that Susan woman—a mere actress (can you believe, our maids wanted to vote for FPJ? So, hal! I didn't give them a day off to vote, humph!). What is happening to this country? It is time to take a stand! To show support! A President who can hold a demitasse in the proper manner, is someone whom the nation can be proud of. Enough, already. The President is one of us. Never mind them. Who are they? Our president is better!

"Look at those people lined up against her: Rolands, este Rolex Suppository? Oh, Suplico. *iComo se llama?* *iPatatas?* Ah, Paras. And look at those young brats, such ambition! My God! You would think Edmund Reyes didn't go to a good school in the States. (Oh, by the way, so is your cousin going to replace her husband in the next election? And did you see so-and-so's house? So nice, Senator So-and-So was there, but he's opposition, *tsk, tsk*, politics is such a dirty business, no? I hate politics but this is different.) But look at Migs Zubiri, see? He can be counted on to do the right thing. Such a nice boy. And such a nice complexion.

And *hay naku*, what's happening to La Salle? You know, that's why I put my kids in Woodrose and Southridge. La Salle has become so "*cursi*" because of all those Chinese. They only used to be in the business school, you know. And now, my God... How "*baboy*" *naman* the opposition! How gross they are! Every time I see them on TV, I want to puke. How *gulo!* I think we should all go to

Lourdes and pray for the country."

You may think all of the above is an exaggeration and, perhaps, some (but not all) of it is. I can only say, if the kind of thinking reflected above is the best that the "Top 600 in Civil Society" (give or take a few, once the unfortunate *dagdag-bawas* in that manifesto is cleared up) can come up with, by way of justifying their support for the President: *iQue lastimal!*

In a democracy, however, we must respect contending views, and the right to manifest both support and opposition. There are the People Power, Teacup Power, the *ati-atihan* drums of those marching in the streets, the tinkling of crystal in agitated dinner parties, and the insistent ringing of little bells summoning the servants to pick up the remote control thrown at the image of Chiz Escudero on the TV screen. If the communists can be on the streets, and some (not all) of civil society lighting candles in La Salle, then by all means, the best of us should not be begrudged for deciding it is time to sacrifice. What's a few hundred extra pesos for gas, as long as you can help show the people who count that they're counted in support of the President? After all, they can all pitch in to support the President's appeal for gas conservation when they go to celebrate Christmas in San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and so on. Democracy has its price. Three thousand dollars every time you take out a full-page ad with your friends (and their friends, and their friends, and...) is a small price. This is about the survival of the rule of law, the preservation of order, and the natural order of things.

Perhaps, I'm getting radicalized. I remember hearing that at the height of his troubles, Joseph Estrada took to the bottle, and couldn't be budged from it. Today, our President is doing better, and the nation's social betters have been inspired to new heights of patriotism. And so, for the sake of public debate, let us seriously consider their appeal, "Enough, already!" If this crisis goes on for too long, life will become such a nuisance. And nuisances cause wrinkles.

Training days

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I ENCOUNTERED AN INTERESTING poem in one of my Psychology classes. It was entitled "Cancer is so limited" and it went this way:

*It cannot cripple love,
It cannot shatter hope,
It cannot corrode faith,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy*

*confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,*

*It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence*

*courage,
It cannot invade the soul,*

*It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench*

*the spirit,
It cannot lessen the power of the*

Resurrection.

The poem made sense to me at the time—at least in an objective sort of way. Little did I know that the truth of it would hit home in a few years' time, as I would be forced to face my personal fears head on.

It was a tense June morning, and the overcast skies did little to ease my heart and the hearts of my parents. We were in the waiting room of the doctor's office, anxiously awaiting the results of the tests taken the day before. I remember trying to encourage my mother, even as I myself struggled with the very fears I tried to assuage within her.

At long last, our wait ended. We were invited to step inside the doctor's office, and the oncologist went straight to the point. "It's malignant," she said evenly.

Just two words, but they were enough to change my life. I felt like a bucketful of the water of reality had been splashed upon me. I had fervently prayed the night before that the results would not be what I feared they would be, and yet they turned out to be exactly what I dreaded, in a cruel twist of fate.

There I was, fighting the despair and the anger, with all the why's swirling around in my head and the doctor's explanations sounding like they were coming from some place far away. I don't know how I managed to stay afloat back then. But I did, somehow. Perhaps it wasn't me staying afloat as much as Someone holding me up.

As my father asked the doctor some questions, I fixed a concerned gaze on my mother. At least she had the luxury of crying, I thought. I didn't think I had the same luxury. I had to be a model of masculine strength, fortitude and stoicism, and whatever else the culture I had grown up in demanded.

And so, being young and foolish, I put on my bravest countenance even if I was feeling utterly scared and lost. But my desperate attempt to remain outwardly strong did nothing to quell the pain and the confusion I felt inside. My world had been turned upside down in an instant.

My father did his best to encourage us as we headed for home. I gave him an appreciative smile, but my mind and my heart just seemed to drift aimlessly on an ocean of painful uncertainty.

It was only the beginning. In the months that followed, my whole paradigm of how things were supposed to be was shaken, turned upside down and inside out as I received on-the-job training as a caregiver. The things Mom used to do for me I began to do for her. There were social and emotional role reversals, and all the little and big challenges thrown in between, during and after treatment sessions.

And yet during those trying months, I learned lessons I probably would not have learned any other way, chief of which was the realization that when you think you have reached the end and you feel you can't go on, Someone takes you by the hand, encourages you and fills your reserves of strength anew. And when you know you are not alone, you find the will to keep on going, one small step at a time.

Perhaps that is what that unnamed cancer survivor meant when he claimed that cancer was his best friend. Before this experience, I had never understood how someone could consider a dreaded disease his best friend. But now, I consider it one of the wisest statements ever uttered.

Like all true friends, cancer opens your eyes to things you would normally be blind to. It strips away your mask of pride, and all the pretension you've built up around yourself, leaving you naked with your fears and your sense of vulnerability and your real self. Faced with the reality of your own human frailty, you have no hesitation about kneeling humbly before your Maker, something we would not even think of doing when everything is going our way.

A pity it sometimes has to come to this before some people realize certain things. But then we are an obstinate lot, and we need to be jolted occasionally so we will learn and relearn what is truly important.

It's been four years since my mother was diagnosed with cancer, and she has been getting along quite well, though we've had to be careful. God has given her a second chance, and we are very grateful for that.

Sometimes I ask myself if, given a choice, I would have opted to go through what I had been through. I honestly can't say that I would have. It feels like hell when someone you love is hurting and you feel powerless to do anything about it. But then, how else would I have seen how sufficient my God is if He had not allowed me to go through the experience, painful as it was? It took me some time to discover the roses hidden among the thorns, but when I did, I found them to be some of the most beautiful roses I had ever seen.

Blessings do come sometimes in very strange packages. The Good Book has it right: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

My training continues to this day.

David Ryan Q. Tarog, 28, is doing graduate studies in Filipino Psychology at the University of the Philippines.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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RP's No. 1 export treated like rags

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT should immediately lodge a diplomatic protest and review our relations with the United Arab Emirates in view of new reports that at least 60 Filipina domestic workers are languishing in makeshift shelters at the Philippine Consulate in Dubai. They are runaways from abusive employers. Most of them fled because of beatings, sexual harassment and unpaid wages.

Note that there are some 36,000 maids among the more than 200,000 Filipinos working in the Emirates. Their plight reflects the miserable situation that many domestic workers in the UAE and the Middle East in general find themselves in.

These Filipino compatriots of ours took domestic-worker jobs for a measly US\$160 (P8,960) a month in compensation. Since

the time of Sarah Balabagan, nothing has improved with the way guest workers—especially domestic workers—are treated in the UAE. The Philippine government must take immediate action to teach host countries, like the UAE, that it is not right to condone abusive employers and to leave guest workers without a livelihood, without food and without justice.

Philippine authorities must also be taken to task for treating overseas Filipino workers as mere commodities and exports. This is evident in President Macapagal-Arroyo's praising of Cristeta Comerford, a Filipino-American recently designated as the first minority executive chef of the White House. "I cannot miss the chance to talk about our one export who has risen to the top of her game

and does the Philippines proud. Congratulations, Cristeta," President Arroyo said in a speech before members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Her words showed that the current government treats OFWs just like coconuts, pineapples and semi-conductors. The government only shows concern for the few who have succeeded in overcoming great odds. But those who really need help from Malacañang do not even get a comment and immediate diplomatic action. The No. 1 export of this government is being neglected and treated like rags by this administration.

—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,
chair, Migrante Sectoral Party,
49 Mayaman cor. Matahimik Sts.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Why can't we retain good men in gov't?

CONRADO BANAL III'S COLUMN of Aug. 30 in the INQUIRER, which dwelt on the resignation of Francisco Licuanan and the hasty retreat of the Hyatt 10 (the so-called prized catch from the private sector), really leaves us ordinary citizens wondering why we cannot seem to retain good men in public service, especially now that we need modern-day heroes to lead us out of the mess we are in.

But did it not occur to Banal that the administration's actualities—which he is so disgusted about—are virtually the same thing that he did to Roberto Manabat and Mario Aguas when he maligned their integrity in his Aug. 27 column? These two men, idealists even in their 50s, answered the call of public service at

the Securities and Exchange Commission after their retirement from the giant auditing firm SGV and Co. "to give back to our country part of what it has given us," as they put it in their own words.

I happen to know these two guys personally and I can vouch for their competence and honesty. They have built good names and sufficient nest eggs to last them beyond their lifetime, and I do not see any reason why they should be tempted to further enrich themselves in office. As to their professional competence, they could not have climbed up the SGV ladder as senior partners if they were lacking in talent.

I am just an ordinary reader of your esteemed newspaper, and I do not know the complexities of

the arguments regarding the ARL (actuarial reserve liability). I believe that the real culprits besetting the pre-need industry today are the open-ended plans, whose current values far exceed the original expected amounts because of the deregulation of tuition fees. Couple this with trust investment downturns, and you can see why there is trouble. Poor SEC (not "the poor and the SEC")! It has a monstrous job dealing with this problem. It needs our support, not our brickbats.

Banal has done the two men a disservice. We have a dearth of good men who are willing to serve the government. We need not push them away.

—JL EVANGELISTA,
Las Piñas City

OPINION

LETTERS

Sure-fire dollar earners

WE CANNOT ABSORB THE blows of massive graft and corruption plaguing the country today just with foreign investments, or with earnings from the export of electronics, raw mineral deposits and fruits, or with remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The defensive ploys of the powers-that-be and the offensive thrusts of the powers-would-be have combined to throw our country to the dogs.

I read in an economics magazine an article that showed why the economies of the eight industrialized nations on earth keep prospering. It gave a simple reason: the industrialized nations manufacture goods that they themselves developed and that underdeveloped nations do not possess.

Five years ago, I read in the INQUIRER about a garbage-converter that turns garbage into fossils; and about an innovative overhead power plant that has the most potent source of electrical energy (hydroairgravity). These two alone are sure-fire multibillion-dollar earners.

Just recently, I also read about a wireless electric-powered car (110v-220v) undergoing initial research and development. This could be another sure-fire multibillion-dollar earner, except that research on the product has stopped. To the political bigwigs: Conquer your fear of offending international donors.

—EDSON CAGAPE

Meralco's new petition for rate increase

STILL REELING FROM THE effects of the April 2005 decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) authorizing the National Power Corp. to raise its rate in the Meralco franchise area to P4.40/kWh, electricity consumers ought to be informed that Meralco has a pending petition for a P0.1476/kWh rate increase. This petition is Meralco's substitute for the P0.125/kWh rate increase allowed by the ERC in 2003, but which the Supreme Court junked with finality in August 2005. If approved, the new Meralco petition would jack up its already excessive rates.

The ERC (which as a regulator is duty-bound to protect electric consumers from unreasonable rates) can save the consumers from another round of increase by directing Meralco to source its power from Napocor (whose rates are still lower than those of Meralco's IPP suppliers). It has the power to do this by virtue of the following provisions in:

1. The Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) Dispatch Protocol: "The System Operator (SO) shall strictly observe the dispatch criteria (security, reliability and economics) in the preparation of the Day-ahead Generation Schedule." This means that the lower priced electricity must be the first to be dispatched by the SO-Transco so that consumers enjoy the least cost supply of electricity.

2. The Meralco franchise: "The grantee shall supply electricity to its captive market in the least cost manner."

3. The Electric Power Industry Reform Act: "... Distribution Utili-

ty shall have the obligation to supply electricity in the least cost manner to its captive market, subject to the collection of retail rate duly approved by the ERC."

4. Section 6 (a), Economic Criteria, IRR, Executive Order 215: "Any proposed electric generating facility should be able to demonstrate its potential for providing net foreign exchange savings to the country by virtue of: (a) generating electric energy more efficiently or cheaper than can otherwise be generated by existing or programmed generation facilities under the power development plans of Napocor and/or other electric utilities."

In the ERC decision on the Meralco unbundled rates, which was issued in May 2003, the Napocor rate was only P2.46/kWh while that of the Meralco IPPs was P4.21/kWh—for an average generation rate of P3.40/kWh. On that decision, Meralco realized a windfall profit of P1.4 billion.

For a consumer with a 100 kWh monthly consumption, this is an additional P94 monthly expense which otherwise could be used to buy 4 kilos of rice.

Today, even with the new Napocor rate of P4.4080/kWh, the average rate we see in our bill for the month of July 2005 is P4.9380/kWh, which means that the rate of Meralco's IPP is more than P5/kWh.

—PETE L. ILAGAN,
president,
National Association of Electricity
Consumers for Reforms,
10, 680 Quirino Avenue,
Bayside Court Compound,
Tambo, Parañaque City

Tanong ng Bayan

PANAHON NA BANG BUMALIK SA MGA LANSANGAN?

NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI SA



Question of the Week

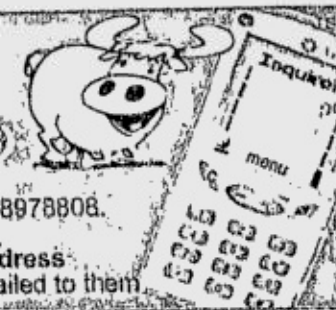
Do you agree with the majority vote in the House of Representatives that upheld the justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against President Arroyo?

Senders of the best 20 texts as published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt"!

Inquirer box name/age/city/message.

(Maximum of 160 characters)

Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808. Provincial winners can text: Inquirer ad name/age/city/mailling address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.



INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Rare birds find haven in Capitol site

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Pili, Camarines Sur

WITH TREES AND FOLIAGE now covering 118 hectares of government property, 49 endemic and seven migratory bird species have found sanctuary in the Capitol Complex in Pili, Camarines Sur.

The provincial government also has an inventory of 1,136 birds kept in cages and aviaries.

Its sprawling grounds are also home to endangered species, such as the reticulated python, palm civet (*alamid*), snapping turtle, Philippine monitor lizard and Philippine saffron iguana (*layagan*).

Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte has envisioned the Capitol Complex to be a haven of bird watchers. He said the provincial government has been investing on rare birds and birds kept as pets to start an industry and further attract tourists.



WHITE-THROATED
Angfisher

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The birds will be sold and bird-watching activities will be promoted to generate income for the provincial government so that the bird sanctuary project can be sustained, Villafuerte said.

Menandro C. Benavides Jr., the resident aviculturist, said the bird populations in the complex had been growing since 2002 as most of the trees that were planted then are now maturing in groves.

From a grassy swath of land in the 1990s, Benavides said the Capitol Complex had become an island as built-up lands made it a natural bird sanctuary in this part of the province.

The expert said that from four pairs of parakeets, the bird stocks now comprised 61 species.

Previous provincial administrations had also invested on projects to increase breed stocks and populations of captive birds, and had received donations, even from other Southeast Asian countries that are natural attractions to migratory and endemic bird species, Villafuerte said.

The Capitol Complex has peacocks and pheasants with their impressive plumage, as well as colorful finches, pigeons of varying color shades and sizes, migratory waterfowls, hornbills, cuckoos, herons, egrets, ospreys, eagles and hawks.

Most of the birds of prey, such as eagles and hawks, are Philippine species and donated.

Strategy

One strategy to ensure that the endemic bird species will continue to flock to the Capitol grounds is the maintenance of rain-bearing grasses around their habitats, Benavides said. Fruit trees are also being preserved to provide food for the feathered creatures.

Strolling inside the Eco-Village in the complex, one will likely see birds in flocks crossing the pathways.

When Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, president of the World Wildlife Foundation, visited the wetland fowl aviary in April, he was amazed at the collection of the elusive wild waterfowls that could hardly be photographed up close even in the popular Candaba wetlands in Pampanga in Central Luzon.

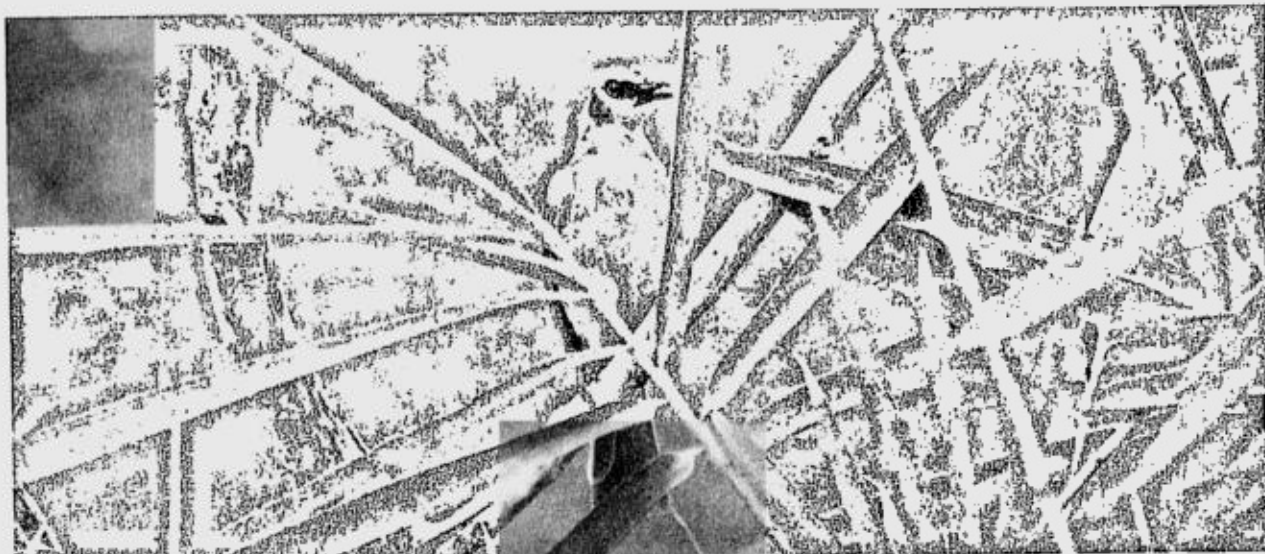
Villafuerte said he was also studying how to make the facility interactive and educational to visitors.

Dove park

A functional dove park, where one can feed doves from one's hands just like in Milan, Italy, has already been established.

Outside the complex, the provincial government has identified two potential wetlands that can be developed into a tourist facility. The wetlands have been monitored and visited by migratory birds from September to December.

Villafuerte said the development of bird-watching sites was another feature of the provincial government's tourism program that could make Camarines Sur one-of-a-kind for tourists.



THIS yellow-vented bulbul is among the bird species that have found sanctuary in the Camarines Sur Capitol Complex in the capital town of Pili.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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We pay tribute to these people as we celebrate this special occasion—let us rekindle the glory of our heritage, work together and bear witness to more winning moments. Together as one, we begin another chapter that will pilot us to start another decade of excellent partnership.

Royale Service Pinnacle Award



Jesus Romales
Employee of the Year

Favorite of the Family



Cecilia Demate

Ten Year Service Award (Staff)



Standing: Neil Maceda, Dante Laguarda
Seated: Jeanette Pedrigat, Ofelia Ferra, Ellen Pacion, Ruby Heptson

Five Year Service Award (Staff)



Standing: Gerardo Bullozar, Jesus Romales
Seated: Shirley Amante, Alma Bobis, Pia Mondida

Most Active Branch



Desiree Putoma & Rosa Ann Ramos
Cabanatuan Branch

Attendance Awards



Mariou Cayote - Most Punctual
Rosalia Agustin - Perfect Attendance

Ten Year Active Service Award (Sales Force)



Standing: Teofilo Nufez, Div. 11 RMD, Tomas Roel, Div. 3 SMD
Seated left to right: Marilyn Ramos, Div. 6 SMD, Rosalinda Nufez, Div. 11 VP, Elsa Garcia, Div. 11 SMD, Aurora Janer, Div. 9 SMD

Five Years Active Service Award (Sales Force)



Top row left to right: Virginia Hernandez, Div. 9 MD, Asuncion Arana, Div. 6 MD, Lourdes Sulit, Div. 3 MD, Cristina Cabrera, Div. 9 MD, Perla Camus, Div. 6 MD
Bottom row left to right: Shirley Carlos, Div. 9 MD, Linda Dumiao, Div. 10 MD, Leonard Cuaserna, Div. 3 MD, Carolina Cabinda, Div. 6 SMD, Not in photo: Margarita Bautista, Div. 3 MD, Elise Cuaserna, Div. 9 MD, Mariou Beto, Div. 8 MD, Loliet Allen, Div. 3 MD

Five Years Active Service Award (Sales Force)



Top row left to right: Nick Pupol, Div. 3 SMD, Fernando Dela Cruz, Div. 6 SMD, Isagani Buencenso, Div. 6 MD, Tito Jose, Div. 10 SMD, Marcelo Angeles, Div. 3 MD, Federico Versosa, Div. 11 RMD
Bottom row left to right: Roberto Gerardo, Div. 8 MD, Remigio Cunanan, Div. 9 MD, Jose Joel Torilla, Div. 6 MD, Henry Rivera, Div. 3 MD, Servitino Serafica, Div. 8 RMD, Domingo Lucena, Div. 8 RMD
Not in Photo: Pedro Rosales, Div. 6 MD



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General Trias Highway, Rosario, Cavite
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Davao Branch: Unit 18, Villa Abille Bldg.,
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel no: (082) 222-4058

The Royale Homes 11th Anniversary Celebration will be held today beginning with a Thanksgiving Mass at the main office followed by an awarding ceremony and party at the Acropolis Community Clubhouse, Libis, Quezon City.

XANGO™

HARNESSING MANGOSTEEN'S POWER

Blessings from the Queen

At first light in the many produce markets in villages and towns all over Southeast Asia, activity is on an all time high. Drove of people flock to the village and town markets on this special day, and all are anxiously awaiting her appearance. Whereas other fruits and vegetables can be had any time of the year, the Queen of Fruits makes her appearance only twice every year, and this day is marks the end of harvest season. The esteemed Mangosteen becomes available.

For centuries, Southeast Asians have placed a higher value on mangosteen over any other fruit, and these are people intimately familiar with the fruits and plants in the rainforest. Of all the fruits, nuts, stems and roots to be found in the rainforests, only the mangosteen rightfully deserves the title 'Queen of the Fruits'.

The reason for this is simple: aside from the mangosteen fruit's exquisite flavor, it is possessive of potent medicinal qualities that Southeast Asians have constantly relied on for centuries.

Historically, mangosteen was used to control fever, headaches and pain and to ward off various kinds of infections. Mangosteen's pericarp, or rind, has been used in the treatment of inflammatory diseases of the bowel, such as diarrhea and dysentery. It was also used for treatment of skin infections (like eczema), wounds and pathogens (bacteria and fungi).

Discovering XanGo



element that piqued his aesthete.

He took a bite, and fell in love.

Joe Morton has a lifelong interest in botanicals due to a family that emphasized natural health, hence he has always been on the lookout for natural plants, fruits and herbs waiting to be discovered. His journey all over the world has exposed him to hundreds of botanicals, and he had tasted all kinds of flavors and tastes that are unusual, and even some that are disagreeable.

But this fruit was different.

"It was like falling in love all over again," he recalls with a twinkle in his eye. "The taste was remarkable, it leaves a sensation that is both sweet and slightly tart. You can experience it, but it cannot be fully described."

He had never tasted anything comparable to mangosteen. He was hooked.

Joe sought out those familiar with mangosteen folklore and learned that, while the fruit is valued for its flavor, the rind or pericarp has been used to treat numerous ailments for generations. With respect to native tradition, he wanted to know if any studies were conducted to add credence to the mangosteen.

His research began with a team he founded. They utilized libraries, documents and medical experts. He enjoined his brothers Gordon and David and a colleague, Aaron Garrity, to join him on his investigations. Mangosteen may have been unfamiliar to Western tastebuds, but in Asia, a significant volume of scientific research had been conducted by credible researchers on the fruit and the pericarp. Soon, the team had collected an overwhelming amount of research and academic documents and published scientific studies.

From these, the team learned that scientists knew the mangosteen was a rich source of an incredibly powerful phytonutrient compound called xanthones. Xanthones are natural chemical substances that recently have won high praise from numerous scientists and researchers. Xanthones have been studied for their medicinal potential, since they demonstrate a number of pharmaceutical properties, i.e. it supports microbiological balance, maintains immune system health, promotes joint flexibility, provides positive mental support. They had uncovered a lot of information, but nothing with regards to marketed products.

Joe thought: "How could a fruit like the mangosteen, so heavenly delicious and rich in anti-oxidant properties be so unknown to most of the world? Why aren't there all kinds of mangosteen supplements out there? Somebody had to be the first." Aaron Garrity, Gary Hollister, Joe Morton, Gordon Morton, Bryan Davis and Kent Wood decided they would be the first.

The story of XanGo begun with a chance encounter, and its legacy continues because of a choice a team of visionaries undertook for everyone's benefit—to bring mangosteen to the whole world. They soon founded a company and called it XanGo, from 'xanthones' and 'mangosteen', and referenced decades of research to develop a proprietary formula.

They have created a singular dietary supplement with a sensational taste. XanGo Juice.

Somewhere in a quaint café in Southeast Asia, Joe Morton, then running operations for a dietary supplement company, was offered the mangosteen fruit for dessert. It was the size of a peach with a dark purple rind. He opened it and saw that inside, it was pure white, a contrasting



An Invitation For You

On September 8 and 9 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, starting from 10am onwards, XanGo LLC will mark the debut of XanGo Juice in the Philippine Market with a grand celebration. Two of its visionaries—CEO Aaron Garrity and EVP for Operations and Distributor Relations Joe Morton will be on-hand to share the XanGo experience.

"We are all very excited. XanGo has experienced tremendous growth all over the world, but the Philippine market is something to be watched—we know that a lot of Filipinos are health-conscious as well as entrepreneurial, so XanGo fits into both categories perfectly! We can't wait to launch in the Philippines," remarked Aaron Garrity.



Joe Morton chimed in: "I know that mangosteen is readily available in the Philippines, but I'm sure this is the first time the Filipino people will get to experience mangosteen in beverage form. I'd like to be the first, again, to see their expressions when they first taste it! I am sure you would all love it!"

XanGo™ Juice is a patented formulation featuring mangosteen whole-fruit purée, utilizing all the xanthone-rich components of the fruit. The result is a heavenly-delicious beverage that brings a wealth of incredible benefits.

Joining Mr. Garrity and Mr. Morton are XanGo's top distributors led by Marlene Balingit. More scientific explanations will be delivered by Dr. Vaughn Johnson. Mark Rieza from Camarines Norte, recipient of XanGo's generosity, will also deliver his testimonial.

XanGo is an active supporter of numerous philanthropic causes worldwide, among them Operations Kids, a public charity that supports a diverse group of effective children's charities with funds and other sources.

XanGo is dedicated to being an integral component to this valuable cause, and this charitable pledge is part of XanGo's generosity and commitment to serving the needs of others around the world.

After the grand celebration in Manila, The XanGo team will be visiting Tagbilaran on Sept. 10, Aklan on Sept. 11 and 12, Cagayan de Oro on Sept. 13, and Dumaguete on Sept. 15, other provincial schedules will be announced later.



For more information on XanGo Juice,
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Discover the Goodness



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Impeach death spurs Visayas rallies

By PDI Visayas Bureau

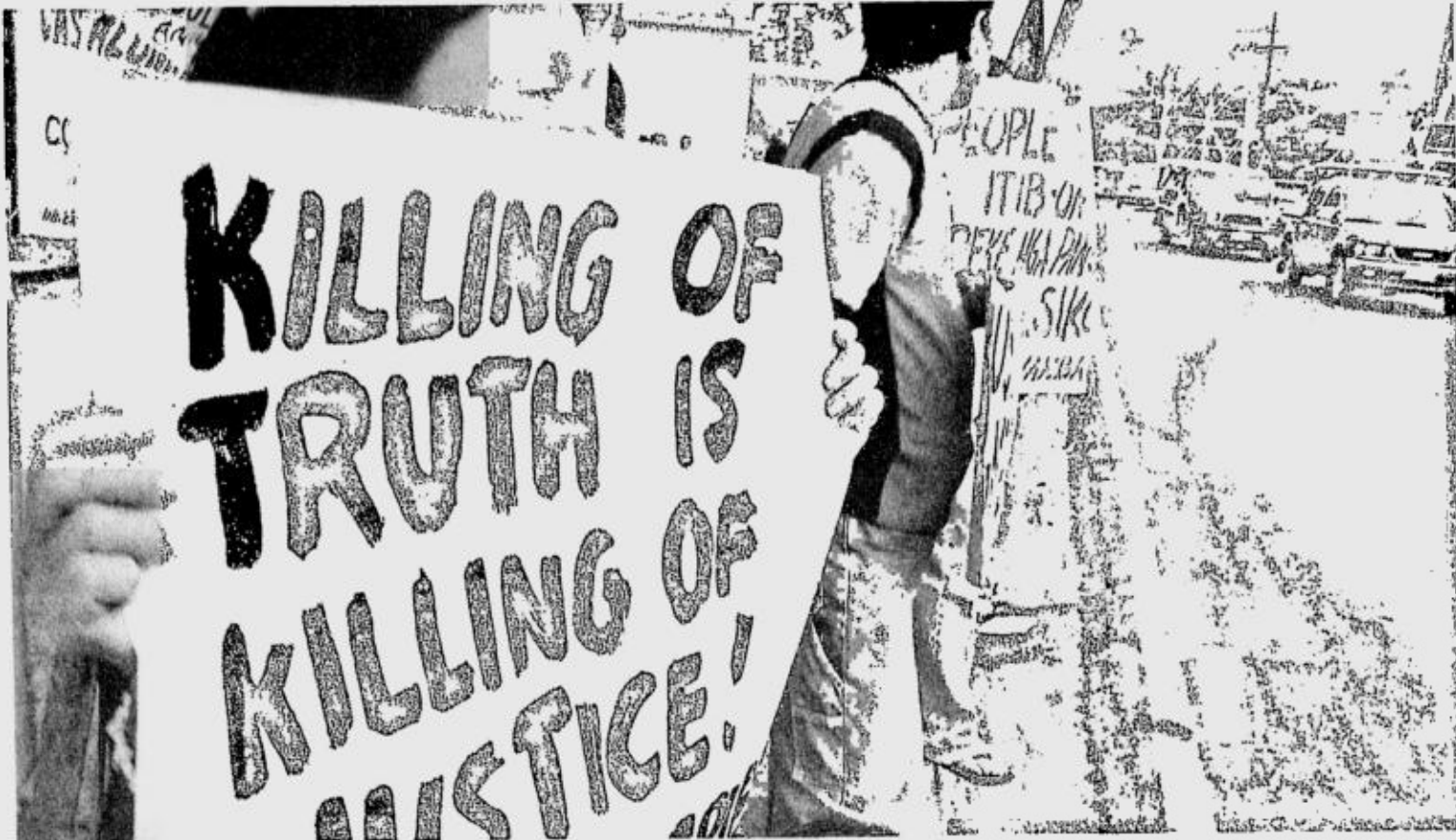
CEBU CITY—THE league of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (Ulap) are asking former president Corazon Aquino not to allow herself to be used by the opposition but instead to continue her role as icon of democracy.

The appeal was aired through Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, LPP and Ulap president, as militant groups in Cebu and Iloilo cities continued their rallies to protest the junking of the impeachment complaint.

Aumentado said many local officials, including mayors and governors, were sad when they saw Aquino leading the street rally on Tuesday because such a move was divisive and counter-productive to the country.

"We are appealing to President Cory Aquino to respect the result of the impeachment proceeding. We are appealing to President Aquino to continue her role as an icon for democracy instead of one who should be used as a tool by the skimming opposition, the left and the other sectors of society who were hungry for power," Aumentado said yesterday.

"We are appealing to her sense



ILONGGOS turn to the streets to protest the death of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo at the House of Representatives.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

of patriotism and being stateswoman, she should be the symbol of reconciliation and unity, not the symbol of divisiveness, a symbol of unity not a divided nation, to be the symbol of democracy not that of mob rule," he added.

About 200 members of militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan staged a two-hour protest rally on

Colon Street in downtown Cebu City at about 10:30 a.m.

The group was also scheduled to hold another rally last night, also on Colon Street, said Arman Perez, Bayan Muna coordinator in Central Visayas.

He said these would be part of the protests actions Bayan and its affiliate groups planned to con-

duct following the killing of the impeachment complaints.

Their groups, he added, would also reach out to the other sectors, including the local businessmen, in order to get their support.

In Iloilo City, around 500 protesters led by the Arroyo Resign Movement and Bayan marched in the city's main streets as part of na-

tionally coordinated protest actions to condemn the junking of the impeachment complaint.

The protesters assembled at the Iloilo Terminal Market before holding a rally at the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater.

"The killing of the complaint has only kindled instead of silenced the people's anger at this despicable

Arroyo regime," said Bayan-Panay chairperson Aurelio Bosque.

The protesters also condemned the congressmen who voted to support the House justice committee report that dismissed the three impeachment complaints filed against the President.

"We are disappointed that many of our fellow legislators turned their backs against the people's interest," said Estancia town councilor Wilson Balingit, a convenor of the Movement for Good Government.

The protesters vowed to hold more protests this month which they dubbed the "September Storm."

"This is a free country and Tita Cory is free to lead demonstrations. However, I believe people power will not succeed this time," Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar Perez, chair of the Regional Development Council in Western Visayas.

She said most local chief executives just wanted to move on and implement the President's pro-poor program.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trefias, League of Cities president, said resorting to street protests would do the country more harm than good especially at this time.

"While we respect the constitutional right of the people to peacefully assemble to petition the government for the redress of their grievances, there are more pressing problems...," he said. *Thun-nex Napallacan, Nestor Burgos Jr., Raj Padilla and Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Gov't doctor killed

CALAMBA CITY—A still unidentified gunman shot dead a government doctor who was on his way to his clinic in Alaminos, Laguna past midnight Sunday. Laguna police director Senior Supt. Federico Terte said Dr. Leonardo Bernardo, 54, assigned at the San Pablo District Hospital in nearby San Pablo City, was about to enter his clinic in Barangay San Andres at about 12:45 a.m. when the lone gunman suddenly appeared and shot him several times at close range. Initial investigation said the victim was seen with two unidentified male teenagers before he was killed. Terte said they have yet to determine the motive of the killing.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Top BIR collector

LEGAZPI CITY—The Bureau of Internal Revenue awarded its Revenue Region 10 (Bicol) office with a plaque of recognition as the bureau's top collection performer in the Class B group during the first semester of 2005. The award was given during last month's 101st anniversary celebration at the BIR national office in Diliman, Quezon City. Revenue Region 10 director Estrella Martinez received the award from OIC Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag and Deputy Commissioner for Operations Lillian Hefti. Two revenue district officers in Bicol also received awards for performance at the district level. They were Socorro Lafuente of the Naga City Revenue District Office and Solomon Barsaga of Masbate City.



PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 reb suspects held

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat—The military arrested four suspected New People's Army rebels believed to be behind the killing of a village official in Columbo, Sultan Kudarat last week. Col. Ruperto Capustan, chief of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, identified one of the four suspects as Romeo Moral, also known as Weng-weng. He said the suspects were involved in the killing of Sucod barangay official Ismael Tumbales who was ambushed on Aug. 27. A bystander, Jerry Mariano Valdez, was also wounded in the attack. The suspects were arrested in a raid conducted by the military in Columbo town. The National Democratic Front is the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The CPP's military unit is the NPA.

Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

I hurt in Army operation

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An old man was wounded during a military operation against Abu Sayyaf bandits who killed two government soldiers on Sunday afternoon. Brig. General Alexander Aleo, chief of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the government soldiers were pursuing the group led by Umbra Jumadall alias Doctor Abu. A certain Masjid Pakam, father of Moro National Liberation Front chief of staff and liaison officer to the Southern Command, lawyer Boy Pakam, was hurt when soldiers fired 105 mm howitzers in the direction of the suspects in Indanan. "But I don't think he was hit by the howitzer's shrapnel. A wood fell on the old man when the howitzer hit his house," Aleo said. Southern Command's chief of staff Col. Domingo Tutaan identified the slain soldiers as Lt. Sahlron Gurnampang and Pfc. Hasan Darib and Arnold Udi Baladorado, all assigned to the 53rd Infantry Battalion based in Malimbog town. Tutaan said Gurnampang has been active in conducting dialogues with civilians and convincing lawless elements to surrender. "His project caused the ire of some Abu Sayyaf members," Tutaan added.

Julia Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Moro gunmen slain

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—An undetermined number of Moro gunmen were killed while four soldiers were seriously wounded during Friday's clash between government forces and Moro guerrillas in Datu Piang, Maguindanao. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said it was the second clash between government troops and forces of Mando Tambolongan of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and renegade Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commander Wahid Tundok. Dema-ala said the soldiers were backing up policemen who were serving a warrant of arrest on Tambolongan when they were fired upon. Tambolongan was being sought for the 2003 explosion in Datu Piang that killed Mayor Saudi Ampatuan and 18 other people. Dema-ala identified the wounded soldiers as Pfc. Marlowe Salinas, Pfc. Richard Boter, Pfc. Jury Montejo and Sgt. Jimmy Coronel. "A still undetermined number of guerrillas were killed or wounded," he said. But Dema-ala said soldiers failed to recover any of the slain gunmen because their bodies were taken by their fleeing comrades. On Wednesday, about 30 armed followers of Tambolongan also clashed with government forces in Datu Saudi town, killing at least two militiamen.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

American convicted of sexually molesting boy, 12

BAGUIO CITY—A JUDGE IN Benguet on Tuesday sentenced a 56-year-old American migrant to five prison terms, ranging from 14 years to 40 years each, for sexually abusing a 12-year-old boy in 2003.

Judge Francis Buliyat of the regional trial court in La Trinidad, Benguet, said the defense of Kerry O'Brien, a resident of Barangay Tudang in Tuba town, partly relied on his allegation that he is protected by United States President George Bush and former US Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

"He testified in open court that he is a missionary and that he assisted these presidents, but [O'Brien] never provided the

court evidence to support these claims. He could not even prove that he is a missionary," Buliyat said.

Buliyat's ruling made light of O'Brien's claims, when the judge sentenced O'Brien to five counts of sexual molestation.

Each sentence penalizes O'Brien from a minimum jail term of 14 years to a maximum life sentence, Buliyat said.

Lawyer Mia Cawed, the victim's counsel, said the boy reported O'Brien, his neighbor, to authorities after spending years as his "companion."

"O'Brien spent a lot of time with [the boy]. He gave him gifts. But [O'Brien] makes [the boy] stay at his house whenever he

gets the urge to masturbate the boy," Cawed said.

"The [boy] had no idea it was wrong, until his friend died, and he was told that the death was supposedly due to [sexual abuse]. My client got scared, and he reported the incidents to social workers and to my office," Cawed said.

She said they sued O'Brien for 11 counts of sexual abuse under the child protection law, but Buliyat said only five of these charges could be supported by evidence.

O'Brien was arrested by the Bureau of Immigration in 2003 as an illegal alien. But the child molestation charges prevented the government from deport-

ing him, Cawed said.

Antonio Prieto, alien control officer of the BI office in Baguio, said O'Brien was petitioned by his Filipino wife in the 1990s and had been staying in the country since.

But the validity of O'Brien's resident visa had lapsed when he separated from his Filipino wife, and when he engaged another woman in a relationship in Benguet, Prieto said.

O'Brien surrendered to immigration officials here, Prieto said, but the American began "name-dropping national officials who would get him released, including the Philippine Management Staff."

Vincent Cebreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov't neglect blamed for death of 3 child evacuees

COTABATO CITY—THE APPARENT lack of government support for thousands of residents displaced by the prolonged military operation against Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah operatives in Maguindanao caused the death of three children evacuees.

Fr. Bert Layson, chair of the Mindanao People's Caucus and Bantay Ceasefire, said over 400 displaced families in Guindulungan and Talayan towns of Maguindanao are still suffering in their evacuation centers due to lack of government assistance.

"They died due to lack of food and medical assistance," Layson said.

It was not known when the children actually died and from which villages they were.

But Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said he already assigned a medical team to attend to the health needs of the evacuees.

Sulaik said the fatalities had long been ill prior to the operation and their deaths should not be blamed on lack of government help.

In General Santos City, the lack of medicine and doctors at a government hospital were also being blamed for the death of a baby girl, who was born out of a caesarian operation in another hospital, where the mother was later

transferred.

Ashmaila Pamaoy was rushed to the City Integrated Hospital around 9 p.m. on Sunday after having a normal delivery.

Upon reaching the CIH, Ashmaila said they were told by the resident doctor that the baby was alive and she would be operated on.

Arip, the patient's husband, said he was advised by the CIH staff to purchase medicines outside as the hospital has no available medicine.

The patient was brought to the operating room while waiting for the medicine needed and the doctor.

Arip said he rushed out to buy anesthesia and pain reliever but was told upon returning that his wife could not be operated on as there was no available doctor.

He said that even Dr. Benjamin Pagarigan, CIH medical director, could not be contacted.

It was when Arip decided to transfer his wife to the Diagan Cooperative Hospital.

Aisah, mother of the patient, told the INQUIRER they would consult a lawyer and would file charges against the CIH.

Charlie Señase and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palparan declares war on C. Luzon rebs

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—the newly installed chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division yesterday declared war against communist rebels following the separate killings of two soldiers since he assumed leadership of the command on Sept. 1.

"Nagpakakitang-gilas yata sila (The rebels seemed to be making a show of force)," Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, 7th ID commander, said when reached by telephone in Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City.

"Hinahamon nila ako (They're challenging me)," he said, referring to the recent killings by what he called New People's Army's "Sparrow unit," a squad of hit men.

The latest victim was 2nd Lt. Rolly Aganon who was gunned down at 8:20 a.m. while on board a motorcycle in Barangay Manggang Marikit in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, on Wednesday.

Aganon headed a special operations team of the 71st Infantry Battalion, a report to this regional police camp said.

Ambush

On Sept. 2, 10 suspected rebels ambushed the group of Sgt. Juanito Sobredo of the 56th IB in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Sobredo died in the attack.

Palparan, dreading for his alleged strings of human rights violations while Army chief in Eastern Visayas, took the slayings of Aganon and Sobredo as the rebels' signal of telling him

to "go slow" in his anti-insurgency campaign.

"That's what the enemy wants us to do. But I will not allow that. We will intensify the fight, eliminate them so people in Central Luzon can live peacefully," he told the INQUIRER.

"We will take action," he said.

He said internal security operations were among the major mandate of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The killings, according to him, also indicated a weakness in the Army's intelligence network.

"Our enemy is just within the civilian populace. That allows it to move against us," he said.

NPA units operating in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan have not claimed responsibility for the killings.



DOLE orders BASILAN TERROR ATTACK

Cory sugar firm to pay back wages

HACIENDA LUISITA, TARLAC City—The Department of Labor and Employment has ordered officials of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) to pay its striking workers P8.8 million in back wages.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, in a writ of partial execution issued last month, directed the DOLE sheriff "to demand the release of unpaid wages and benefits due the striking workers" or to levy CAT property that would satisfy the amount due its workers "if no payment is immediately forthcoming."

Execution

Ricardo Ramos, president of the CAT Labor Union (Catlu), said they are expecting the sheriff to execute the directive anytime this week, as it was already past the 10-day period that Sto. Tomas had set when she issued the writ on Aug. 11.

Even as he believed that the CAT has money to pay them, Ramos said they are willing to be paid in sugar. He said about 146,000 sacks of sugar are still kept in the sugar central.

The more than P8 million worth of back wages, he said, is equal to the amount of 9,000 sacks of sugar.

Picket entry

Ramos said they would allow the 9,000 sacks to get through their picket line.

The strike entered its 11th month on Tuesday and barricades were still firmly set up along the entrances of the sugar central.

Citing the impact of the CAT strike on the country's sugar industry, the DOLE took jurisdiction of the labor dispute in November 2004 after negotiations for a fresh collective bargaining agreement collapsed and members of the workers' union went on strike.

Toll

At least seven striking workers and their supporters died while at least 100 others were hurt when policemen and soldiers dispersed them in November last year.

A Jan. 14, 2005 DOLE decision ordered the CAT management to pay the workers their back wages and accrued benefits. However, the decision also declared the strike illegal and dismissed 35 officials of the labor union.

On March 18, the Catlu filed a motion for writ of execution pertaining to the payment of their wages and benefits.

This resulted in a May 30 order of the DOLE for the workers to submit a verified and complete list of workers entitled to the benefits and payments and the corresponding amount of claims. Jo Martinez-Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Death toll in ferry blast rises to 3

DAVAO CITY—ANOTHER VICTIM of the Aug. 28 Lamitan ferry explosion died on Monday night, bringing to three the death toll from the bombing.

Emmanuel Torres, 18, kitchen helper of the MV Doña Ramona, died at the intensive care unit of the Davao Medical Center here on Monday evening.

Torres was among the eight victims who were airlifted from Lamitan by the Philippine Air Force on Sept. 2 upon orders of Health Secretary Alejandro Duque.

The first victim to die was 12-year-old Sonny Boy Hamac, a son of Doña Ramona Sea Marshall TSgt. Cesar Hamac.

Hamac died on Aug. 30 while undergoing treatment at the military hospital in Zamboanga City.

Ismain Olmok, 30, the ferry's canteen assistant, died at the Zamboanga Brent Hospital of the Episcopalian Church on Sept. 3.

At least 28 people were injured when an incendiary bomb went off aboard the ferry, as it was waiting for clearance from the Coast Guard to sail to Zamboanga City with more than 200 passengers on board.

Seven of those injured were children.

The bomb went off in the ferry's canteen. It had been apparently stashed in a box of clothes, according to the military.

The attack occurred 18 months after suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits bombed the Superferry 14 near Manila, killing more than 100 people, and followed warnings from security officials that Jemaah Islamiyah militants had slipped into the country to carry out terror acts.

The military said 10 minutes before the blast, witnesses saw a man place a small plastic bag containing a box on the canteen's counter.

Ferry purser Nicholas Urciada, 61, said he was walking near the canteen when a loud explosion ripped through the ferry.

"I sat down and covered my face with my hands. I heard people running away on the upper deck yelling, 'Bomb! Bomb!'" Urciada said.

Supt. Jose Bayani Gucela, deputy chief of Zamboanga City police and chief of Explosives Ordnance Detection Unit, earlier said the explosive was "not a sophisticated bomb."



A MAN makes a call on his mobile phone amid debris inside the MV Doña Ramona that was bombed while it waited to sail from Basilan on Aug. 28.

He said the bomb contained "approximately one pound of black powder with improvised

time fuse, then placed inside an 800 ml plastic bottle and wrapped with a cloth and placed inside a carton."

Gucela said the bomb could be "easily done by fishermen." Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gov't, MILF agree to set up more truce monitoring posts

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to establish more joint ceasefire monitoring posts in Maguindanao to prevent skirmishes and encounters.

This developed as at least new members of the Malaysian peace monitors will arrive this week in Manila to replace their colleagues, who have been in Mindanao for at least a year already.

The two new monitoring posts are to be established in the village of Gawang in Datu Saudi Ampatuan and in Katibpuan in Talayan, both in Maguindanao.

Earlier, the peace panels also established four ceasefire monitoring posts in Bagoing in Pikit, North Cotabato and in Mama-sapano, Maguindanao.

The fourth was recently put up in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Based on information gathered from both sides, each monitoring post is composed of representatives from the MILF, government and a civil society group.

On Sept. 1, a gunfight broke out between soldiers and MILF fighters in Gawang as the military continued its assault against Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

Mohaqqer Iqbal, MILF chief

negotiator, said the presence of the new monitoring posts would help the government in its pursuit of lawless elements.

He said with proper coordination, incidents similar to that of the Sept. 1 clash would be avoided.

The government and the MILF have been trying to arrive at an agreement that would end the decades-old Moro rebellion.

The next round of talks was expected to resume this month in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia, a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which hosted ranking Moro rebel leaders at the height of the government's campaign against the Moro secession, has been brokering the peace talks.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bong Pineda wife back to work in board

AFTER 45 DAYS OF ABSENCE during the heat of the "jueteng" scandal, Pampanga Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, who was among those tagged to have supposedly given money to election officials at the house of President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, resumed work on Monday.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan regular session was, however, held at the town hall of Sasman, some 30 km west of the provincial capitol in the City of San Fernando, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, the board's presiding officer, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Another board member, who declined to be identified, described Pineda as being "in a fighting mood" against her detractors, mainly jueteng witnesses Michaelangelo Suce and Sandra Cam.

Pineda is the wife of suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, who Suce claimed to have funded the special election operations of former Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in Mindanao.

Another board member said Pineda spoke to her colleagues to defend herself and Ms Arroyo before the session began.

During the session, however, she was largely quiet, talking only to seek updates on resolutions pertaining to health, women and children, and family concerns. These are committees she heads in the board.

Pineda resumed work as the Senate committee on gaming took a long break from its investigation into allegations that Ms Arroyo's husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, her son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and her brother-in-law Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo protected jueteng operations in Luzon.

Guiao said Sasman Mayor Catalina Bagasina asked the provincial board to hold its session in the town.

The board has not been known to hold regular sessions outside the capitol but in several instances, it held special sessions in public places or in the houses of board members.

Pineda could not be reached for comment or for confirmation if she has been summoned by the Senate committee investigating jueteng operations in the country.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



REMEMBERING World War II veteran Lt. Santiago Balajo, 95, salutes at the war memorial shrine during ceremonies marking the surrender of Yamashita and the end of Japanese occupation in the Philippines.

Benguet veggie leaders seek probe of agri pacts with China

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province's vegetable industry leaders are calling on the House of Representatives to continue its inquiry on the impact of the country's bilateral trade agreements on agriculture.

Board Member John Kim said House Resolution No. 551 was filed in January to push a legislative inquiry on 47 trade and investment agreements that the country had forged with other countries to facilitate free trade relations.

But Kim said he had lost track of what happened to the resolution filed by Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III and Akbayan Rep. Mario Aguja.

In the resolution, the legislators asked the House's special committee on globalization to initiate an investigation on the trade agreements that were concluded "with very little public scrutiny and debate," Kim said.

He said conducting the probe now would be very timely since

vegetables were among the common commodities of trade pacts signed by the government in recent months.

He cited the Early Harvest Program signed in July by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce during Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit.

The trade pacts, Kim said, included the granting of trade concessions, like the lowering of tariffs on foreign vegetables, which will open the local mar-

ket and hurt the local vegetable industry.

He said the inquiry would boost local agriculture since the resolution also called for the determination of the legality of the agreements signed.

The resolution raised the possibility that these trade agreements could have violated the constitutional provision that domestic enterprises must be protected against unfair competition and trade practices, he said.

"Today, the importation of for-

eign vegetables like potatoes and carrots are being allowed. How much more if the 47 trade agreements will be fully implemented?" Kim asked.

"Our local vegetables will lose their pipeline and will surely suffer a natural death," he said.

Kim noted the resolution's statement, which cited then Trade Secretary Cesar Bautista as saying that "there is no such thing as a level playing field in bilateral negotiations." Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Eccentric son of late VP Lopez dies in Iloilo City

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—FERNANDO "JUNJIE" Lopez Jr., the namesake and son of the former Philippine Vice President who lived a colorful and controversial life, died on Tuesday, 12 days after he was rushed to a hospital and fell into a coma.

He died past 3 p.m. at the Iloilo Mission Hospital due to complications from aneurysm of the brain, said his nephew Alberto Lopez III. He was 74.

A bachelor, Junjie was the third

of six children of former Vice President Fernando Lopez Sr. and Maria "Mariquit" Javellana-Lopez. He is the elder brother of former Iloilo Rep. Alberto "Albertito" Lopez.

Alberto III said aides rushed his uncle to the hospital in the morning of Aug. 25 after he fell ill and was barely conscious at the staff house of the family-owned University of Iloilo in Pavia town, 10 km west of Iloilo City.

Junjie lapsed into coma the next day after his doctors performed the first of two surg-

eries to remove the blood clot in his brain. He died 30 minutes after Alberto and other family members left the hospital on Tuesday.

Aside from diabetes, Junjie had no other known illness, said Alberto III.

He said his uncle looked healthy when he attended the birthday party of his mother, former Guimaras Gov. Emily Lopez, on Aug. 4 at the Lopez family colonial mansion in La Paz District.

Living off a hefty inheritance from the family's estate, Junjie

was controversial for his eccentricity and lavish lifestyle.

He drew national attention after he bought a Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine in 1997 during the Asian financial crisis.

The limo, which could seat up to 14 passengers, reportedly cost P8 million excluding the cost of shipping the car from California to Iloilo. Daily gasoline expenses for the car alone could run up to P3,000 daily, a friend of Junjie said.

He also drew attention for riding in a white iron-wrought Cinderella-type carriage drawn by

two white Arabian horses imported from abroad.

Junjie was often seen wearing ostentatious pieces of jewelry and being driven around town wearing a mink coat. During his heydays, he was surrounded by around 15 bodyguards and traveled in a convoy of at least four luxury vehicles.

A cockfighting aficionado, Junjie oftentimes bet large amounts of money. When he was on the verge of winning, he would throw wads of bills into the cockfight arena.

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Accused in TV director's slay recants

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAN FACING TRIAL FOR the death of television director Louis "Luigi" Santiago has taken back his "confession," saying he did it because of "threat and intimidation" from his custodians.

Oliver Jameiro recanted the contents of an affidavit he had executed before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"I hereby repudiate all the contents of the said July 4 affidavit," he said.

In the affidavit, Jameiro admitted to randomly firing shots amid a brawl near V-bar in Makati City. He also identified a woman who

purportedly handed him the pistol used in the incident and who later helped him flee.

"On July 4, while I was under custodial investigation by the NBI, I was forced to execute an affidavit by means of threat and intimidation, which situation I was afraid to reveal to [my lawyer]," Jameiro said in another affidavit, which a source showed the INQUIRER.

The two-page recantation was submitted on Aug. 30 to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office, which is conducting a preliminary investigation on criminal complaints filed by the Makati Police Department against the

gunman in the June 8 V-bar shooting, even before Jameiro was tagged in the incident.

Jameiro, 32, filed the affidavit in response to charges of attempted homicide being heard at the Prosecutor's Office, for the other persons wounded in the shooting. The document, which was also signed by Jameiro's lawyer Alexander Bansil, also cited that "force and violence was exerted upon (Jameiro's) person resulting in physical injuries" during his "warrantless arrest."

"The recantation altogether nullifies all statements he mentioned in his affidavit. He said there were threats from other

parties and that he was afraid for his life," Bansil told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Jameiro had already been hailed to court, through a separate complaint filed by the NBI, for charges of homicide for Santiago's death, and direct assault with frustrated homicide for injuries suffered by Senior Insp. Merquiodi Bodanio, a policeman shot during the incident.

The justice department elevated the case to the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 134, while the Makati City Prosecutor's Office pursued its investigation on the other charges.

"I specifically deny the truth of

my supposed allegation that a certain Charito Angeles handed me a firearm at the time of the said incident," Jameiro said in his affidavit.

He was referring to Angeles, the identified owner of the vehicle which police said was used by the gunman to flee the scene.

Jameiro, now out on bail, was supposed to be arraigned in court yesterday, but he failed to come as he was still recovering from severe leg injuries, said Bansil.

NBI agents who arrested Jameiro denied that they tortured him into making a confession.

"Jameiro executed his confession in the presence of his coun-



JAMEIRO

sel," said NBI Special Investigator Albert Gaerlan, who noted that the accused again admitted to the crime during a press conference.

Lawyer shot, hurt at own b-day bash

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A LAWYER WAS SHOT AND gravely wounded as he celebrated his 57th birthday inside his house in Manila the other day.

Victor Padilla, of 455 San Jose St., Sampaloc, was rushed to the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay (UERM) Hospital for gunshot wounds in the head.

The victim is the husband of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Luisa Quijano-Padilla.

According to Padilla's close friend Vic Bermejo, he was drinking liquor with the victim in the living room at about 6:30 p.m.

While Bermejo was chatting with Ma. Luisa, he saw one of two men approach and shoot Padilla.

"The gunmen had apparently entered the house through the back door," Bermejo said in an interview.

The attackers escaped through the front door, Bermejo said.

Police recovered a 9mm slug from the crime scene.

Bermejo and Boy Padua, another close friend of the victim, said Padilla had been handling a number of "sensitive cases."

Padilla's friends mentioned the allegations hurled against the victim a few months ago, accusing him of grabbing land in Cagayan Valley.

"It is a very complicated case, but Padilla had the documents to prove that he owned the land in question," Padua said.



FACE OF DEATH

Youth performers dramatize the dangers posed by solid waste incinerators, which have reportedly made a comeback in the country. The group picketed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources offices in Quezon City yesterday.

JOAN BONDOC

BF exec explains stickers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

"OUR STICKERS ARE not for everyone."

United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHA) president Celso Reyes yesterday disputed former Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar's statement assailing him for selling 10,000 car stickers yearly to nonresidents.

The car stickers were issued only to outsiders endorsed by BF homeowners, Reyes said yesterday in a phone interview. "[Nobody] could just come here and [avail] of the sticker. We ask them who from the homeowners have endorsed them," he explained.

The association would grant UBFHA sticker to outsiders only upon the request of a homeowner, he stressed.

Vital information of vehicles owned by nonresidents are registered in the association's computer once nonresidents availed of the stickers.

"These information would then be used to track down possible criminals," he said, adding that homeowners would be held liable for the actions of nonresidents they endorse.

He also corrected the former mayor about the cost of car stickers. For nonresidents, the stickers were sold at P750 and P150 for homeowners, said Reyes.

"He is just [embittered] because we don't honor their Friendship Route," he said.

Let's go on with our lives

ON TARGET

Ramon Tuflo



Please, please, honorable bishops, stop interfering in the affairs of government!

The House has put finis to the impeachment issue; you should do the same. Your work should be to unite the country, not divide it.

Former President Corason Aquino is again on the warpath. She has joined a disparate group that is calling on the President to step down after the junking of the impeachment complaint.

Ms Aquino should just stay home and watch the television shows of Kris, her youngest child. She would be doing the country a favor.

Only diehard followers are stick-

ing with the former President after she lost credibility because of the infamous massacre at the family owned Hacienda Luisita.

Ma'am, please clean up your own backyard first before tackling political issues. You're a has-been. You should know how to retreat gracefully into oblivion.

Cigarette and beer tycoon Lucio Tan wants to run the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, popularly known as the Naia 3, along with five other taipans.

A fellow Chinese taipan, Emilio Yap, publisher of the Manila Bulletin and owner of the Manila Hotel, is bidding for the management of Naia 3 when it opens.

Tan and Yap now are rivals for the much-coveted management of the country's most modern international airport. His business-ness are proof. He was able to make the once-dying Philippine Airlines a going concern.

Yap? Look what he's done to the Manila Hotel, supposedly a national treasure. Once called The Grand Dame of the Orient, Manila Hotel looks like one of the cheap hotels in Chinatown.

Transportation Undersecretary Ricardo E. Alfonso Jr. felt alluded to in the last column where I said that suspension orders for private emission testing centers (PETC) that did not require vehicles to be inspected were lifted upon orders from a DOTC undersecretary.

Alfonso is chair of the PETC Monitoring Committee. "The only amount paid by a suspended PETC is P30,000, which goes directly to the National Treasury. The alleged money being paid to a 'DOTC undersecretary' is plain rubbish as the lifting of suspension is based solely on the ability of a PETC to comply with all the regulations," said Alfonso in a letter to this writer.

Manila court ransacked

EMPLOYEES OF A Manila court lost valuables after still unidentified men barged into their office Tuesday night. SP04 Danilo Degada of the Manila City Hall police detachment said the staff of Regional Trial Court

Branch 27 found their office in disarray and their valuables missing when they reported for work yesterday morning. Degada said the thieves apparently entered the court room through the ceiling. Apart from the employees' jewelry, cellphone charger and other valuables, Degada said a homemade gun, reportedly an evidence in a case in the court, was also missing.

World Youth Day scam

A WOMAN AND HER SON HAVE BEEN PLACED under investigation for the duping of hundreds of aspiring World Youth Day (WYD) delegates. Consequently, the National Bureau of Investigation recommended that Rosario and Jose Vicente Zarate be placed on the Bureau of Immigration's watchlist after the complainants flocked to the NBI for assistance. Complainants said, the mother and son took thousands of dollars from them in exchange for a pilgrimage to Cologne, Germany, last month which turned out to be nonexistent. NBI Anti-Organized Crime Division (AOC) chief Nelson Bartolome said the Zarates organized the Alab ng Kabataan Pilipino, Inc. which was supposed to take delegates to the WYD gathering with Pope Benedict VI. Some 600 hopefuls reportedly gave the mother and son \$1660, or more than P100,000, for a visa, trip insurance, plane fare and tour expenses. "But the German Embassy denied the victims' application for Schengen visas and even blacklisted them," Bartolome said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

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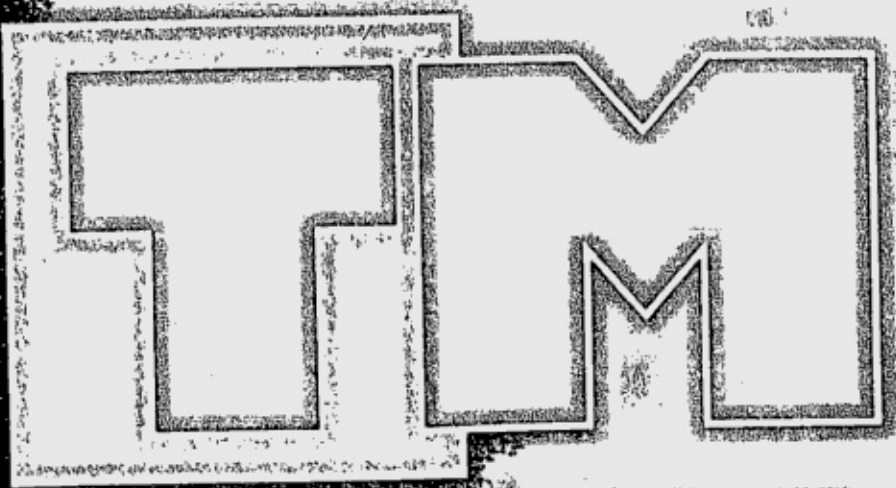
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GOLF: PGA State Farm Classic; 5:30 p.m.; ESPN.



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Hold talks, Eala urges cage heads



PERPETUAL Help College cheer leaders whoop it up after topping the Nestle cheering competition yesterday. Story on A24

By June Navarro

LET'S TALK.

The Philippine Basketball Association is urging the warring parties in the current cage crisis to sit down and hold a dialogue which will serve as initial step for the country's return to the world basketball federation.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said that only through a meeting of the minds among the Basketball Association of the Philippines, Philippine Basketball Federation and the Philippine Olympic Committee could settle the dispute and pave the way for the lifting of the Fiba suspension.

"Unless we all sit down and talk, this lead-

ership (issue) will not be resolved," Eala told the INQUIRER. "We should take a step back and look at the problem from the outside looking in."

Eala said that Fiba was specific in its stand to recognize only the BAP as its affiliate.

"Whether we like it or not, that's the decision and we have to comply with it," said Eala. "Asking the Fiba to lift the suspension is just a simple case of asking for accreditation. The Fiba has laid down the guidelines and we ought to follow it."

For renewing on basic agreements forged among the basketball stakeholders, the POC suspended and eventually expelled the BAR. Both decisions were approved by unanimous

vote from the general assembly.

But the Fiba rejected the expulsion and suspended the country from participating in its sanctioned tournaments, including the Fiba-Asia championship, which begins today in Doha, Qatar.

With the RP team nowhere to go, the PBA board asked the BAP and POC to settle their differences lest the pro league abandon efforts to use its players and resources for future international commitments.

Meanwhile, BAP president Joey Lina said he would again request the POC to reconsider its expulsion of the BAR. "The BAP will humbly request the POC through a formal letter to reconsider its decision," said Lina.

Fiba to get lowdown from PBFI chief

By Musong R. Castillo

HAVING HEARD THE SIDE OF THE BASKETBALL association of the Philippines, the new cage body approved by the Philippine Olympic Committee will now present its case to the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. presi-

dent Moring Martelino yesterday said he is writing Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann to present the real score behind the BAP expulsion by the POC, which led to the current Fiba ban on RP international participation.

"The letter is actually the POC's story, which suspended the BAP in the first place, and how the PBF came into being," Martelino told the

INQUIRER over the phone. "We are pretty sure that what (Mr.) Baumann knows is only the BAP side of the story. "It (the letter) will tell the Fiba, in great detail, of the events that led to the expulsion (of the BAP)." Martelino said he is not shutting the door on anything, including a possible merger with the BAP, but added he has to consult the POC first.

Anya leads Indon tilt

Southwoods faces Forest

IT'S GOING TO BE MANILA SOUTHWOODS against Forest Hills for this year's Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League championship.

The two teams forged an all-Fil Estate showdown for the crown as Manila Southwoods rallied to shock defending champion Royal Northwoods and Forest Hills rose from the grave to oust Eastridge in the semifinals recently. Given up for loss after taking a 2.5-1.5 beating at home, Manila Southwoods—parading two of the country's most promising jungolfers—scored a 3-1 victory in its trip to Royal Northwoods in San Rafael, Bulacan, the next day to reach the finals for the fourth time.

Marcel Puyat teamed up with Florene delos Santos to win the alternate shots and Tonton Asistio joined hands with Romy Vergara in taking the scramble for the two crucial wins in Bulacan that mattered for Southwoods.

Benjie Sarmiento and Jeric Hechanova put the icing on the cake by winning the aggregate that more than made up for the lopsided loss of high-low bets Butch Brodett-Theodore Pascual to the Northwoods tandem of Richard Joson-Rodel Mangulabnan in high-low.

Manila Southwoods hosts the first day of the duel on Saturday then drives to Forest Hills on Sunday.

INDONESIA—ANYA TANPINCO FIRED AN even par 72 yesterday to post a three-stroke lead over two local bets heading to the final round of the 27th Indonesian Ladies Amateur Open at the Imperial Klub Golf Club in Karawaci, Indonesia.

Tanpinco, one of the mainstays of the national training pool, started out impressively at the backside of the par-72 layout, birdieing Nos. 10 and 15 only to give back the strokes with three-putt bogeys from No. 16 and 17.

She banged in a six-foot birdie on No. 3 to go one-under but three-putted from 20 feet on the par-5 No. 6 and missed birdie opportunities inside 10 feet on her homeward trip for that 36-36 card.

Counting her first round score of 77, Tanpinco pooled a 36-hole aggregate of 149, which she hoped would be enough to cushion the impact of an expected final round charge by Indon top player Lidya Ivana Jaya and Juri-ah.

Jaya strung up nines of 38-36 for a 74 to catch compatriot Juri-ah, carding a 75, in second at 152.

"Any's ball striking was terrific but her putting was off," said national team coach Bong Lopez.

The Philippines barely lost the crown to Indonesia in the 36-hole team play as Tanpinco and teammate Tracy Locsin combined for 284. The Indons pooled a 283 from rounds of 154 and 149.

Millet Villaroman, the other RP pool member in the fold, is in fifth place at 158, while Locsin stood at 159 after a 79.

Teener Debbie de Villa skied to a 90 after her opening 77 and slid to 16th place at 167.

Lucero aims for SEAG mark



BEA LUCERO, THE FORMER ENERGY drink commercial girl, will be trying to achieve a record in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

After winning gold medals in gymnastics and taekwondo, Lucero, now a mother of

two, has dipped her hand in wushu and is one of the Philippines' bright prospects in the tournament set Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 in Manila and three other key cities.

No athlete in the history of the Games has ever won gold medals in three different sports. Sultry singer Viktoria Agbayani will also be in the wushu lineup.

THE PHILIPPINE cycling team that promised to win at least six gold medals in the coming Games will take part in the tough Tour of Taiwan at the end of next month.

Musong Castillo

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SPORTS

Paragua, Lomibao boost Asian Zonal title drive



PARAGUA ponders his next move.

GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA AND Woman FIDE Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao of the Philippines continued to pace their respective divisions in the Asian Zonal 3.3 Chess Championships at Stanford Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Paragua halved the point with Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung in the sixth round to share the lead with Indonesian GM Utut Adianto, winner over Fide Master Tirto. Paragua and Adianto raised

their total to 5.0 points.

Lomibao drew her 5th round match to tally 4.5 points and share the lead with Woman Grandmaster Mongontul Bathuyag of Mongolia, WPMs Pham Le Thao Nguyen and Le Thi Phuong Lien of Vietnam and another Vietnamese Hoang Xuan Thanh Khiet.

The reigning back-to-back national women's champion beat Lindiawati Evi in the fourth and proceeded to split the point

with the top seeded Bathuyag.

IM Ronald Dableo stunned top seed Super GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam to climb to a share of sixth to 10th places with GMs Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio, Oliver Barbosa and Tirto. They tote 4 points each, half a point behind Singaporean GM Wong Meng Kong, Burmese IM Wynn Zaw Htun and Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung.

Torre continued his climb with another

victory at the expense of IM Situru Nathanael. It was the sixth decisive result in as many games for Torre, who won in rounds 1, 3, 5 and 6 and lost in rounds 2 and 4. Antonio and Barbosa, on the other hand, agreed to a truce in the sixth.

Wong beat GM Nelson Mariano II while Htun bested IM Jayson Gonzales. Mariano and Gonzales were stuck at 3.5. IM Petro Roca, FMs Jesse Noel Sales and Oliver Dimakiling and Darwin Laylo were at 3.0.

Realtors sign up Catli, wait for Cabagnot

By June Navarro

AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS FIRST PICK IN the rookie draft temporarily hit a snag, Sta. Lucia Realty now turned to its second choice to infuse youth into the team's lineup.

The Realtors signed up Cesar Catli to a three-year deal worth a little over P3 million in wages apart from performance bonuses on Tuesday, a reliable source told the INQUIRER.

Selected 10th overall in the second round of the 2005 PBA draft, the 6-foot-4 Catli is a fierce defender with a decent outside touch.

"He (Catli) has the potential and he's capable of defending bigger and taller players," said Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado.

"That's really impressive for a player of his height," the former PBA chair added.

Catli acted as skipper of the Far Eastern University Tamaraws and was one of the team's dependable outside gunners.

"The PBA is an entirely different level but this is another challenge I have to hurdle," said the 24-year-old Catli, a small forward capable

of playing the guard position.

Meanwhile, Alex Cabagnot, Sta. Lucia's top pick, is expected to arrive within the week to straighten things out with the Realtors.

This year's second overall choice left for the United States after negotiations with the Realtors bogged down three weeks ago.

Cabagnot, a playmaker out of University of Hawaii-Hilo, is expected to sign a long-term contract that could give him P8.5 million in three years.

In another development, Billy Mamaril signed a P7.5-million package over two and a half years with the Coca-Cola Tigers last Monday.

The Tigers also renewed their ties with the 6-foot-7 Gilbert Lao for one conference while contract negotiations with Poch Juinio is now in full swing. The 6-foot-6 Juinio is being offered a single-season pact.



YOUNG tracksters show their wares during the recent Milo Little Olympics held in Lingayen Pangasinan. Meanwhile, Santiago City will host the Milo Marathon regional eliminations on Sept. 18. Santiago City Mayor Amelita Navarro is inviting running enthusiasts and sports fans to come for the race. Registration center is at McDonald's. Call Milo sports organizer Tess Bernardino at 0919-8325417 for details.

UM extends streak; New Era wins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY OF MANILA'S incredible winning streak continued even as New Era hacked out a thrilling 82-77 victory over University of Makati in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naas-cu) basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

The Hawks hardly surprised anybody anymore when they chalked up their 86th league win—and 13th this season—with a 90-62 rout of the STI Olympians.

AMA Computer downed Paman-tasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 83-75, to keep third place at 9-7 behind idle St. Clare (11-2).

If UM completes a 16-game sweep of the elims—which is highly possible considering the way the Hawks have been laying the opposition—it will automatically clinch the first finals slot.

The second title slot will then be decided by two playoffs, the first between the No. 3 and No. 4 teams after the elims. The winner then forged a playoff against the No. 2 squad, who will enjoy a twice-to-beat privilege.

"I don't want to be too assuming but we haven't lost the hunger that we had when we helped start this league in 2001," said UM coach Ato Tolentino. "I think that hunger fuels us to improve further and prevents us from complacency."

UM president Ernesto delos Santos also rooted for his squad, whose streak

is unmatched in the history of collegiate basketball wars.

New Era came back from a lethargic first half to destroy UMaK and firm up its chances of making the semifinals with a fourth-running 8-6 record.

The Wizards, who dominated the first two quarters and even led by 10 points, 44-34, at halftime, fizzled in the second half and fell to sixth place at 4-9.

The scores:

Third Game (Srs)

UM 90—Regalado 19, Napiza 16, Santiago 1, Litonjua 10, Bernados 9, Jamil 8, Maliksi 5, Bonus 4, Ocampo 3, Delostrinos 2, Advincula 0, Facun 0, Gulmpatan 0.

STI 82—Mabayo 13, Botin 9, Belano 8, Miras 8, Stapley 6, Ebuengga 5, Wong 4, Mactuan 3, Lur-ar 2, Limph 2, Dia 1, Lim 1, Castro 0, Lagaspi 0.

Quarters: 26-22, 63-34, 82-2, 90-62.

Taguig faces Baguio five; All-Stars set

TWO GAMES IN SEPARATE venues will resume action in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship.

Last year's losing finalist Forward Taguig winds up its elimination schedule against the Baguio Lions at 6 p.m. at the University of Baguio gym.

Mantaw's Sparkling Nights will go up against Bacchus/Harbour Centre also at 6 p.m. at the Mandaue Sports Center.

Mayor Freddie Tiñga's Taguig cagers are shooting for their eighth win in 13 games and a share of top spot in the Northern Conference, while the Sparkling Nights are gunning for their eighth victory in 12 games.

The Cavite Insurers assured themselves of a top finish in the Northern Conference with a 95-86 win over the Cagayan de Oro Stars last Monday.

The Insurers finished at 8-5 in the elimination round of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Acel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dew-foam, KSK Food Products (Boy Barwang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Meanwhile, the NBC-All-Star games will be held in two southern cities—Iligan and Valencia—this year.

The Iligan crusaders will stage the skills events and the game between the Mindanao All-Stars and the Visayan/Luzon All-Stars on Sept. 28 at the Mindanao State University/Iligan Institute of technology gym.

Preceding the game will be the two-ball competition, three-point shootout and slum dunk event.

Cubs claim top spot in NC jr play

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

JOHN HERMIDA TOOK CONTROL in the closing seconds to lead the San Beda Cubs past the San Sebastian Staglets, 74-67, in their playoff match to claim the top spot in the NCAA junior basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hermida, who shot a game-high 16

points, scored on a jumper to lift the Cubs, 69-67, in the last 39.3 seconds. He completed his heroics by grabbing a crucial rebound in the ensuing play.

The Cubs and the Stags claimed the twice-to-beat advantages after wrapping up the elimination with 10-2 records.

The Cubs, whose two losses in the elimination were handed by the Staglets, will battle the Philippine Christian U Baby Dolphins (6-6) in the Final Four. The Staglets will clash against the Letran Squires (8-6) in the other semifinal pairing.

In senior play, the Knights and the Dolphins will shoot for a championship berth in the Final Four tomorrow.

The Knights (13-1) and the Dolphins (10-4) secured the twice-to-beat incentives after claiming the top two spots at the end of the elimination round.

The Knights will face the San Sebastian Stags (7-7), while the Dolphins will take on the Mapua Cardinals (9-5).

Earlier, the University of Perpetual Help pep squad bagged the title in the Nestle Cheerdance Competition. The

Altas, who finished fourth last year, scored 90.33 percent to claim the P55,000 cash prize.

San Sebastian finished second (83.99 percent), while Letran took the third spot (82.99 percent).

The scores:

SAN BEDA 74—Hermida 16, Guillermo 15, Aduang 13, Principe 12, Victorino 8, Marcelo 8, Yulo 2, Montecastro 0, Mallari 0, Babilonia 0, Alabastros 0.

SSC 67—Salamat 14, Lee 11, Buenaile 11, Tan 10, Morales 9, Reyes 6, Macasat 6, Nasayao 0, Del Rio 0, Azona 0.

Quarters: 21-14, 36-27, 49-47, 74-67

Eslao salvages third, keeps top rookie bid

CEBU CITY—PAOLO ESLAO SURVIVED a series of unfortunate events but still salvaged third place yesterday in the sixth leg of the 2005 Aboitiz-Shell Superkarting Series at the Kart Zone track here.

The 17-year-old Eslao yielded to veteran local karters Robert Buxton and Reiner Englis, but remains on top of the race for the KT Light crown and the coveted Novice Karter of the Year award.

The experience of racing on the treacherous Cebu track gave Eslao valuable lessons and confidence which he could use in the championship round this October.

"The weather here was unpredictable, the sun was up and suddenly it would rain, we were in limbo deciding

what tires to use," said Eslao. "Likewise, the track was tricky that spills, collisions and spin-outs were unavoidable."

Eslao was second on the grid at the start of the final heat when all seven karters figured in a pileup. Five karters called in quits but Eslao managed to jump out to start reviving his engine.

While he was about to push his kart to get back in the race, one of the karters accidentally hit his legs. Even under intense pain, Eslao managed to finish the grueling 28 laps, one lap behind Buxton who clocked 12:59.71 and Englis who checked in 22:98.7 seconds later.

On the first day, Eslao's natural talents showed as he posted the best lap time of 34.8 seconds on lap 18 under heavy downpour.



TOP Rookie Paolo Eslao tries to keep his grip of second place against Cebu bet Robert Buxton (No. 15) in the KT Light race of the Aboitiz-Shell Karting Series at the Kart Zone in Cebu City.

5 Pinoys enter Italy pro racing school

FROM A RECORD 310,000-PLUS entries, five Filipino racing enthusiasts, four of them from Metro Manila, made it as the Philippines' representatives to Varano, Italy, after besting 120 national finalists in the nationwide search for the Marlboro Red Racing School.

Last Saturday, Anthony Jose, Art Raynald Bajacan, Cyril Payumo, Jose Laudemeer dela Peña and Gisella Garcia were summoned up the stage to receive their silver cups—symbolizing their selection as this year's bests. Their selection was met with a roar of approval from their co-final-

ists, friends and more than a thousand people who gathered for the event inside the Le Pavillion in Roxas Boulevard.

Bajacan, Dela Peña, Jose and Garcia, the lone female in the group, are all from Metro Manila, while Payumo, the youngest in the batch at 22, is from Davao.

All are excited to make the trip to Italy, where they will learn racing from world-class experts. They'll be attending driving classes in a professional racing school at the Varano and Fiorano race tracks and ride inside a special three-seater Formula 1

race car.

"I wish them the best, said Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson, who personally congratulated each member of the group. "They're the best from among the finalists this year, considering that we have a record number of entries. That's why we're very excited because I'm sure they'll do great in Italy." The celebration, which doubled as a send-off party for the group, started with a bang, as Rivermaya, one of the hottest bands in town, entertained the crowd with renditions of their hit songs while the

rain poured hard outside.

But as soon as the names of the five finalists were called, a frenzied celebration followed: shouts of joy erupted from everywhere, champagne flowed, high-fives were exchanged everywhere.

"This is one of the most enthusiastic batches in the three years that we've done this event," said Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista. "Even at the beginning, they really bonded together, they worked as a team and I'm very confident that we will witness the same teamwork in Italy."



MARLBORO Red Racing School Team Philippines members Jose Laudemeer dela Peña, Art Raynald Bajacan, Gisella Garcia, Cyril Payumo and Anthony Jose are joined by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson, Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista and marketing director Maarten Kila in last Saturday's send-off party at the Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard.

FEU, Ateneo face lowly rivals today

GAMES TODAY (Blue Eagle Gym)
9:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UST vs FEU (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

AS THE FAR EASTERN U Tamaraws inch closer to the twice-to-beat advantage, the league leaders keep reminding themselves that upsets can happen anytime in the UAAP basketball tournament.

So there's no slowing down the Tamaraws when they clash against the eliminated University of Sto. Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m. today at the Blue Eagle Gym.

"We can't relax," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "Every game is a big game. Look at what happened to Ateneo against UST."

The Ateneo Eagles, though, will try to move on from that stunning loss when they battle the winless National U Bulldogs at 1:30 p.m.

Before they wrap up the elimination round against powerhouse

FEU and La Salle, Ateneo coach Norman Black said he didn't want his Eagles to "slip against the lower teams."

But the UST Tigers came prepared last Thursday, halting the Eagles' seven-game winning streak, 77-73.

Powered by rookie swingman Dylan Ababou, who shot a game-high 20 points, the España-based squad brought the Eagles back to earth.

With the big win, Flores expects the Tigers to deliver another fired-up performance.

"I've been telling my players that they can't be overconfident," he said. "We still have to improve our defense and the execution of our offense."

"Our target is to remain No. 1 because other teams can still catch up," added Flores.

But a win today will assure the Tamaraws of at least a playoff for the semifinal bonus. *Jasmine W. Payo*



ROGER Federer cranks a serve to Nicolas Kiefer, who forced the world No. 1 to raise his game a notch higher.

REUTERS

Clijsters, Sharapova grab semifinal slots

Federer advances despite dropping a set

NEW YORK—ACROBATICS AND dogged effort trumped artistry as Kim Clijsters, two games from losing in straight sets, scrambled back to beat an exhausted Venus Williams and reach the US Open semifinals on Tuesday.

Clijsters, trying to shed her label as the best woman on tour never to win a Grand Slam title, performed more than a dozen of her patented leg splits chasing balls to take down Williams, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Waiting for the Belgian in the semis on Friday will be top-seeded Maria Sharapova, who yielded a set for the first time in the tournament before beating fellow Russian Nadia Petrova, the ninth seed, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

"I wasn't really thinking about the score," said Clijsters, who trailed 4-6, 2-4 with Williams serving in the second set. "I just tried to keep fighting and just kept running for each ball."

Clijsters won the final six games, closing out the 2-hour, 5-minute match when Williams, her lavender dress drenched in sweat, lofted a forehand long.

Sharapova won her first four matches in an average of 59 minutes. Against Petrova, each of the first two sets took almost as long, and the match ran 2 1/2 hours before Sharapova, shrieking on nearly every point, ended it with a break in the final game on a lunging backhand return

that Petrova couldn't handle.

Roger Federer sneered, tossed his racket in disgust. Horror of horrors, he, too, lost a set.

For most of the US Open, the defending champion and top seed had seemed to sleepwalk through his matches, playing only as well as necessary, waking up and painting lines when pressed. He made up shots as he went along—a sprinkling of aces at various speeds and angles, a backhand pass that got him out of trouble, a volley that came out of nowhere between yawns.

That was enough until he got into a little trouble against Nicolas Kiefer on Tuesday. Suddenly Federer had a reason to elevate his game and stir some emotion.

Under just the hint of pressure, Federer produced his best tennis of the tournament to beat Kiefer, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4, and land safely in the quarterfinals.

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2001 champion and runner-up to Federer last year, reached the quarters for the sixth straight year with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 15 Dominik Hrbaty, who drew more attention for his pink peekaboo shirt than his play.

"It made it a lot easier for me to beat him today," Hewitt said. "I just couldn't lose to a bloke wearing a shirt like that."

Hewitt advanced to play Jarkko Nieminen, who became the first Finn to reach the quarters in a Grand Slam event with a 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-3 victory over Spain's Fernando Verdasco. *AP*



SHARAPOVA: Tested this time.

REUTERS

DepEd: Little Olympics boosts RP sports

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION in Visayas, alarmed by the retrogression of RP sports, said the Milo Little Olympics could provide the boost needed to get the country back on the podium again.

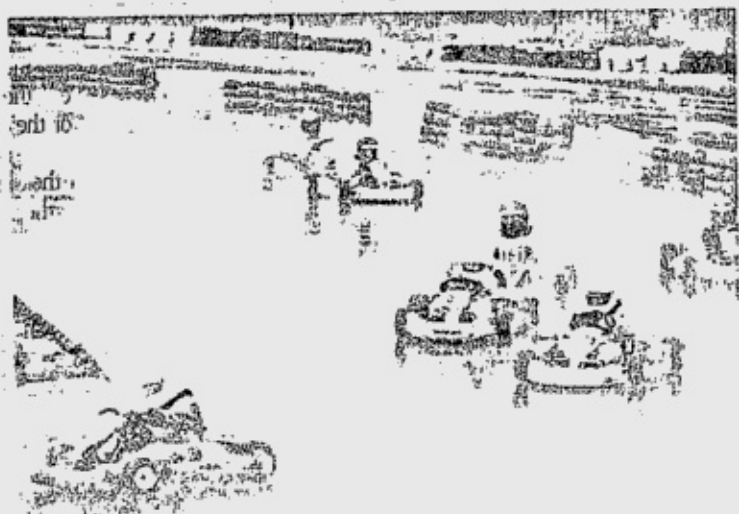
"I believe we are sort of retrogressing in sports, comparing it

with earlier years when the Philippines was a major sports power in Asia, and it is through event like the Milo Little Olympics that young athletes get the needed exposure and are discovered," said DepEd Visayas regional director Carolino Mordeno.

"I just hope other companies will sponsor regular school-based sports competitions, particularly in the provincial areas," added Mordeno, who was the special guest of the Visayas leg of the event.

The Milo Little Olympics started in 1988 in Manila coinciding with the

Seoul Summer Olympics and repeated in 1992 for the Barcelona Olympics, the event proved to be so successful that Milo decided to hold it annually starting in 1993, spread to the Visayas in 1996 and reached Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao in 1997, and in Pangasinan in Luzon in 1998.



ALL-DAY KARTING

Enchanted Kingdom's Kart Track played host recently to the fifth round of the Shell Superkarting Series with 60 racers participating, including the country's new karting princess Alessandra Madrigal, Asian Karting Queen Michele Bumgarner and Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli. Reigning supreme in that two-day event was Mark Bumgarner who won in the ICA class. The 650-meter track is managed by the same team that owns the Batangas Racing Circuit and Carmona Race Track. Kart Track is fully lighted, which means it is operational even at night.

Coseteng eyes title via another sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION JODY Coseteng of San Miguel Beer hopes to have the title in the bag as he guns for another big sweep this weekend, Sept. 10-11, in the fifth leg of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

He's way ahead in the title race with 107 points and another double feat would install Coseteng the virtual champion of this event.

But one driver out to spoil Coseteng's bid is Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports-Malayan Automas-

ter National Touring Team.

Alvendia missed his chance last year due to late transmission problems and hopes to get back this time in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippine and sponsored by Petron Ultron, Kilton Motors, Denso, MOF Company and Pilipinas Shell.

Joining them in the race are Dominic Bon and Oscar Aguilar.

Also looking forward to another big win is Renan Morales, who's eyeing a repeat over Bingo Valero and Izmael Icasas in the Petron Junior Touring Car Championship.

Laudable

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



NOT THAT I BATTED FOR IT, BUT I must really laud the PBA in its decision not to disband the national pool. For a while there, I thought it would all end in a snap. It saved me the ordeal of having to cry a river myself.

I'm an incurable romantic, haven't you heard?

The boardroom is sometimes the cruelest place to toss one's idea in. It's like a death chamber, the Nazi's gassing room even, where flowers are usually not allowed to bloom and are nipped senselessly in the bud.

Brainstorming, they call it. Bull session, others term it.

Whatever, most boardroom tussles produce nothing but garbage.

How many helpless, hapless children have died in such Hitler-created hell holes in the last World War?

For once, this particular boardroom—the PBA what else—has given birth to a reason as sound as the idea to make basketball a must-include event in the Manila SEA Games.

I'm sure Chot Reyes, the relentless coach, has heaved the biggest sigh of relief in his life upon hearing the news.

Chot it was, in almost Quixotic fashion, who has made it a personal crusade to keep his pool intact up to 2007, the year he said he might yet shoulder his boys into a spot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

That dream is now kept alive by the PBA when it quashed a proposal to burst the dream—for a reason that

is not, to the credit of its author, totally without merit.

"There is confusion in basketball," said the ponente from the PBA. "The PBA should now stop dipping its fingers into it." Or words to that effect.

In the end, though, the board saw the wisdom behind Chot Reyes' program and reaffirmed its vote to keep the pool alive.

It was a move in the right direction since it could restore the fans' faith in the league.

For one, it made the PBA still relevant in that it has not turned, will never turn, its back to flag and country. There isn't any program nobler, more patriotic, than the one designed to bag honors overseas for the land. Fans will surely appreciate that.

Haven't we called the OFWs our new heroes for their supreme sacrifice of leaving their land of birth and, in the process, help build, if not strengthen, our dollar reserves through remittances?

Sporting victories abroad, like the one recently captured by the PBA pool in Brunei, immediately make us proud. Uplifting to the spirit.

For another, the PBA decision acknowledged the correctness of coach Chot Reyes' formula of preparing a team that would be ready to do battle at the flick of a finger. In Chot's method, cramming, that perennial scourge of past national teams, will now become a thing of the past.

I'm sure there will be disruptions in team schedules as some players will have to continue to contend with commitments to both their mother clubs and Chot's regimen.

But there will always be ways to smoothen out kinks. As we love to say, if there's a will, there's a way. All one needs to do when troubles attack the mind is, embrace sacrifice with all your heart. There is nothing that can't be done if one wants things to be done.

The PBA has just made the Olympic dream doable again.

Amid the Fiba/BAP-made uncertainties besetting basketball, I wish the PBA and Chot Reyes luck.

FASTBREAK. Super public relations expert Dante Velasco, that poet-friend of mine, will soon send me books—again. This time, the books are by Arthur Daley and John Kieran. I got hold of Ring Lardner's hard-to-find book some years back, courtesy of Dante. What is the commonality of Daley, Kieran and Lardner? They were all sportswriters. Here's to you, Dante!

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Huge field joins Enduro finale

IT'S NOT GOING TO GET ANY BIGGER THAN this.

Up to 80 teams are expected to participate in the biggest joust among adventure racers in the Philippines this year when the final leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure series 2005 blasts off in Manila on Sept. 17.

The finale of event comes at the heels of successful stagings in Baguio and Cebu last July and August, respectively. San Mig Light, the major backer of adventure racing on local soil, is considering the possibility of including the Mindanao region in the annual event by next year.

"Next year, we're planning to make it four legs," said Oliver Rabatan, San Mig Light assistant brand manager.

According to Rabatan, the Mindanao region—specifically in Cagayan de Oro—outdoor racing and extreme sports are already gaining popularity among the youths.

In fact, yesterday veteran adventure racers went to the University of Santo Tomas for a well-attended lecture on the basics of adventure rac-

ing, which has become a hit because of reality shows based on it.

San Mig Light, the right alcohol, less filling beer, will be joined by other backers for the 2005 series.

The other sponsors include Bombproof Gear, Rudy Project, Casio, Gerry's Grill Malate, Planet Infinity, North Face, EZ Maps and Detour Bakeshop.

The Enduro Bar Adventure will be held on Sept. 10, exactly a week before the series finale. Students, yuppies, celebrities and the media will participate in the fun race set in different bars in Malate.

The champions of the E-Bar get to register for free for the series finale and will receive premium prizes from San Mig Light.

Interested participants may call the Enduro hotline at 414-1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph for details.

There will be two categories in the finale—the Elite Category (exclusive for hardcore racers) and Novice Category.

More than P100,000 is at stake in the finale.

TRIATHLON chief Tom Carrasco (second from left, seated) and Speedo vice president Manish Mathani (third from left, seated) sign the deal that makes Speedo the official outfitter of the national triathlon team for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. With them are Speedo executives and triathlon athletes and officials.



Boy from Davao wants to be a star

By Nini Valera

DAVAO CITY—LIKE MOST SHOW BIZ hopefuls in this city of fruits and flowers, 11-year-old Anton Kintanar wants to make it big in Manila.

"I love what I'm doing," Anton told INQUIRER Entertainment during a press conference of ABS-CBN's Davao-based contract stars at the NCC Mall here last week.

Speaking in English and Filipino with a slight Visayan accent, Anton, a mainstay of the local infotainment show "Okiddo" on ABS-CBN TV-4 Davao, answered questions like an adult.

"I'm saving money so I can buy gadgets, like a cell phone," he said. "I envy my classmates who have cell phones. I'm also striving [in show biz] so I can help my parents buy food and clothes, and stuff for my school projects. The VAT makes things really expensive."

But his mother, Xenas, an area manager of AXA Philippines in this city, said Anton's prior-

ity is still his studies.

"I can see that he has fun doing his show," Xenas said, "but he doesn't excel as a student. The minute he fails in any of his subjects, all this will stop."

True friends

Anton is a 5th grade student in Assumption College. While he's not exactly at the top of his class, he doesn't have any failing marks. "ABS-CBN is very strict about their talents' grades," said Xenas. "They look at the kids' report cards. Taping is scheduled around class hours. They usually start on Friday."

Failing grades for a talent could result in suspension from his or her show, according to Xenas.

"I want to be a businessman someday," Anton said. "I don't want to work in an office because I don't want to have a boss and I want to wake up late in the mornings."

He was discovered by ABS-CBN during an audition, in which he excelled in singing and acting. But he said his classmates tease him



ANTON Kintanar appears in "Okiddo," a local infotainment show on ABS-CBN Davao.



ABS-CBN talents, led by Gary V (extreme right), wow fans at the SM Mall in Davao.

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Maragana
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

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2 (DOLBY) THE CAVE
3 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) (444)3465

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3 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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2 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS
3 (DOLBY) VALIANT
4 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

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2 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
4 (DOLBY) SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409

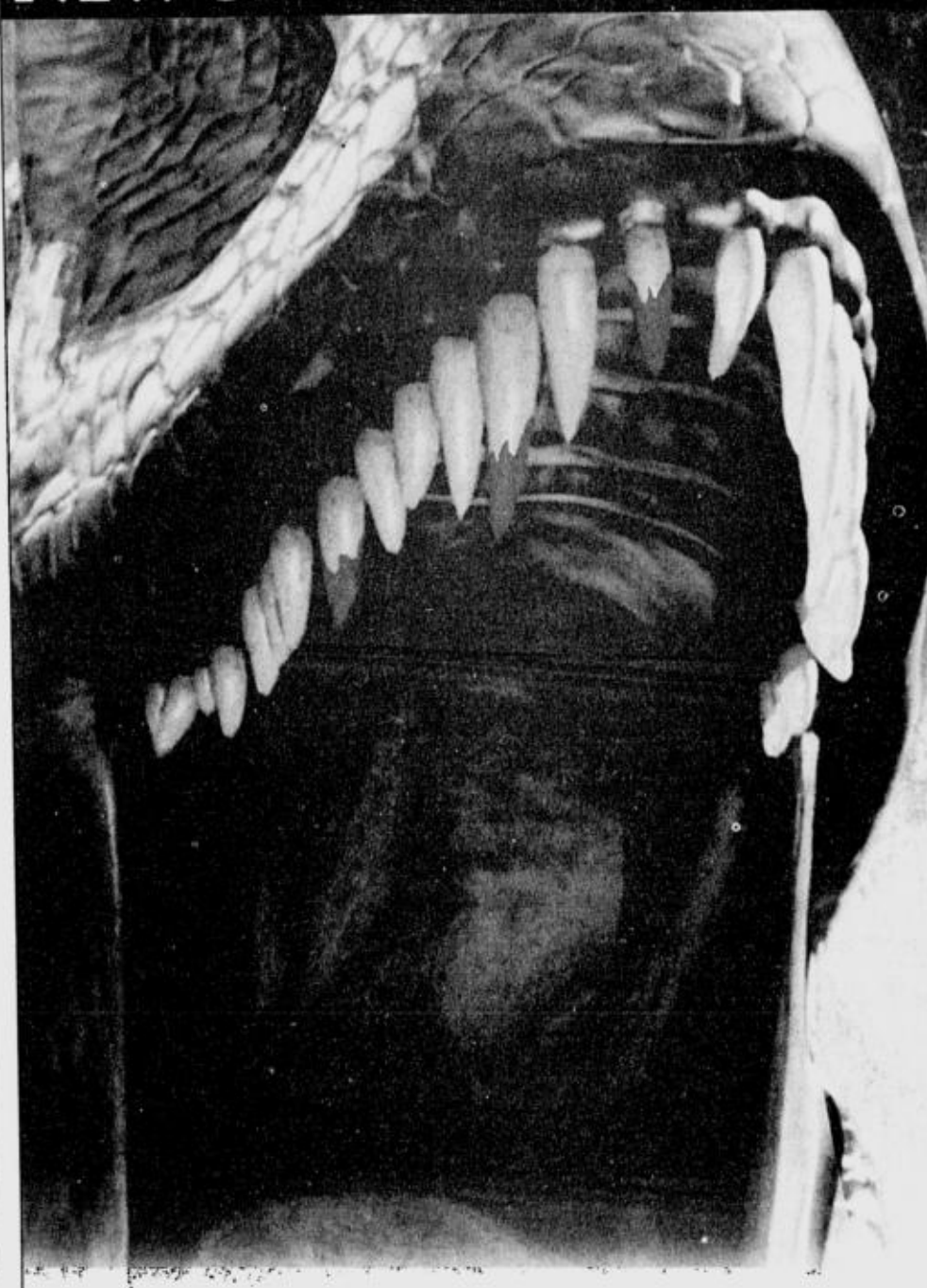
1 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 (DOLBY) CRASH D/W THE GHOST HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
4 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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THE LONG WEEKEND 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LONGEST YARD 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
LISENSYADONG KAMAO 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	SKY HIGH 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	4 THE BROS. GRIMM 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5 SKY HIGH 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
3 RED EYE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 DTS SDDS

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Saturday UST vs NU Srs 2pm UE vs UP Srs 4pm
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about his weight. "They say I'm fat."

So was Niño Mulach, INQUIRER Entertainment told him.

"You know what I really like about show biz? I found true friends here," Anton confided. "I used to play only with the children of my parents' business friends. Now I've made friends on my own."

It's easy for Anton to make friends, actually. Like a politician, he went around the NCC bowling alley where the press conference was held, saying hi and hello to the media and ABS-CBN executives from Manila. He also introduced himself to the stars present, like Bayani Agbayani and Vhong Navarro.

"I'm going to sing in Gaisano Mall," Anton told Bayani. "Tito, listen to me sing, ha?"

Harnessing local talents like Anton is the focus of ABS-CBN.

Charo Santos-Concio, senior vice president for Entertainment, said Davao talents were going to be given more workshops. "We will bring in Manila directors for these workshops," said Santos-Concio. "There are so many talents who are now big in Manila who come from Davao City."

Major league

Erich Gonzales, last year's winner in "Star Circle Quest," is from Davao City. "Four of the contestants in the Closeup to Fame (talent search) are also from Davao," Santos-Concio noted.

But for Anton, Manila is still major league.

"If there's an opportunity for me in Manila, I'll grab it," he said.

With stars in his eyes, Anton gazed at the celebrities who came in droves to various malls here for a series of live shows that culminated in the live performance of the all-star cast of "ASAP."

About 80 ABS-CBN talents led by Gary Valenciano, Maricel Soriano, the Hunks, Al-Ai de las Alas, John Estrada, Jomari Yllana, Kristine Hermosa, Randy Santiago, Vhong Navarro, among others went on stage at the SM Mall here for the live telecast of the nighttime variety show.

Some 15,000 fans stood under the noontime sun to watch. No one complained. Calling out the names of their idols, they seemed tireless and happy at the mere sight of stars in the flesh.

Blow in the belt, a time constrained and other boob-tube boobos

HOST: DO YOU HAVE A WAY OUT FOR THE country, a way for us to solve all of the problems that we're facing these days?

GUEST: No, that's a fantasy. *Hindi naman natin mababago ang lahat ng everything problems in our country in a split click!* (Ano daw?!) ***

Host: What will you sing for us now?
Guest: My new song, it was never out until now. Here it is—enjoin!
(Isa ka pa.) ***

Host: What have you learned after the shooting incident you figured in when you were out on a gimmick with your friends in a club in Libis?

GUEST: I learned, *na ihinto ko na lang ang aking gimmickry!*
(Ay, gimmickry!) ***

Host: What do you want to happen as far as the impeachment process is concerned?

GUEST: As far as impeachment, we need to speed up, because of the time constrained.
(Ay, time constrained!) ***

Host: You have something to plug?

GUEST: Yes, for young singers who want to become tomorrow's stars, you are invited to join the auditions of the new "Startruck" in November.

(What about the "Starjeep" auditions, when are they taking place?) ***

Newsreader: Here's breaking news: A fire in Parish, Fran!
(Is that next door to Parish, Hilton?) ***

Host: What is the secret to a successful marriage?

GUEST: The young married couple should not be influenced or pressured by their parents. Especially, parents-in-law should not interfere!
(If you don't enter, have no ferel!) ***

Host: You were in the hospital recently?

GUEST: Yes, but only for treatment of my medical condition.
Host: What's wrong with you?
Guest: I have a case of insomnia.
(Ay, insomnia!) ***

Host: Why are you feuding with (name of starlet)?

GUEST: It was too much. We were friends, she knew all my secrets, but she spelled the beans for everybody to find out!
(Remember the golden rule for friendship: Don't spell the beans!) ***

Host: So, you got mad?

GUEST: Of course! We were best friends! It was a blow in the belt!
(Blow in the belt?—Oh, below the belt!)

"The Shield"

SEASON Four of "The Shield" will start telecasting on AXN this October. Joining Michael Childs in the show's stellar cast is Glenn Close as Capt. Monica Rawlings, a seasoned street cop. Her performance has garnered an Emmy nomination for lead actress in drama.

The last season of "The Shield" ended on a volatile note when an American mob targeted the Strike Team, and personal and professional conflicts were at an all-time high. "The Shield"

Juday and Piolo . . .

From page A30

Thriving or Just Surviving," featuring top leaders in utilities, toll ways, public service and telecommunications industries.

Another interesting topic for discussion is the power of using celebrities. Velasco said GMA-7 senior vice president Wilma S. Galvante would reveal the secrets of successful campaigns using stars.

Pauline Wilson at Merk's

MERK'S Bar and Bistro celebrates its third anniversary with a special concert by Pauline Wilson of the Seawind on Sept. 27 and 28. Pauline will perform her timeless hits "Follow Your Road," "Stay," "Deeper and Deeper." She will also do a duet with prince of jazz Richard Merk. For reservations call 757-4720/21

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaith-band.com

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

is seen on AXN every Thursday at 10 p.m.

Michael Bublé

Michael Bublé, the Canadian crooner will hold a live concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 12, and promote his eagerly awaited second album, "It's Time." The 13-track collection has already sold 2.5 million copies worldwide.

Cuts include "The More I See You," "Feeling

Good," "How Sweet It Is," "Quando, Quando, Quando," "Song for You," "Save the Last Dance For Me," "Mack the Knife," and two extra tracks.

Bublé's Oct. 12 concert is presented by Smart Infinity, Sunlife Financial, Rado and Joey 92.3. Call 911-5555.

Tilt-Down Men

ALPHA Music has reissued the album of the popular '60s band, the Tilt-Down Men. Titled "Together with the Tilt-Down Men," the compilation includes "Dynamite," "Together," "Baby Say No," "Don't You Care," "Bus Stop," "Holiday," and "I Will."

The Tilt-Down Men was made up of Tito and Val Sotto, Bing Dizon and Dell Pascual.

MTRCB R-13

IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE" COMES THE GROSS-OUT COMEDY OF THE YEAR.

CHRIS KLEIN BRENDAN FEHR

THE LONG WEEKEND

TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.

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MANNY PACQUIAO

Lisensyadong KAMAGONG

Directed by TONY BERNAL

Search for Lakambini and Lakan of Bulacan

THE TOWN OF GUIGUINTO will host this year's Search for Lakambini and Lakan of Bulacan 2005 tomorrow at the Municipal Athletic and Cultural Center.

Twenty-three women and 20 men representing the different towns of Bulacan will vie

for the crown.

Commercial model-TV host-actress Iza Calzado and noon-time program host Bobby Yan will host the event. Joining Iza and Bobby are performers Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez, Faith Cuneta and Harry Santos.

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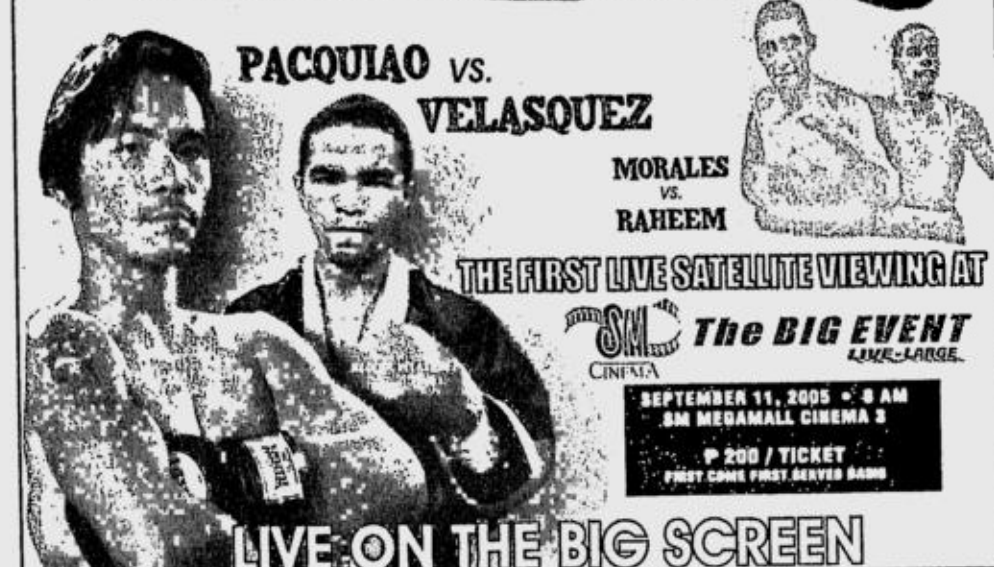
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THE PODIUM 633-8976 CEBU (032) 231-3876	
1. RED EYE 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:30/05:00/07:00 08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:25END	1. THE CAVE 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2. BROTHERS GRIMM 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:35/05:15 08:20LFS/09:00LFS/11:00END	2. BROTHERS GRIMM 11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
MEGAMALL THE CAVE	
10:45FS/11:10MF/01:15/03:20/05:25/07:30 09:10LFS/09:40LFS/11:20END	11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:18/05:41/07:36 09:03LFS/09:30LFS/11:55END

METRO MANILA	
SM MEGAMALL	SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. THE CAVE 2. SKY HIGH 3. BROTHERS GRIMM 4. DUKES OF HAZZARD 5. LONGEST YARD 6. RED EYE 7. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 8. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 9. LONG WEEKEND 10. LITTLE MERMAID 11. EVIL EYES 12. SKELETON KEY	1. LAZARUS CHILD 2. D' ANOTHERS 3. SKELETON KEY 4. RED EYE 5. LONGEST YARD 6. THE CAVE 7. BROTHERS GRIMM 8. SKY HIGH 9. LONG WEEKEND 10. EVIL EYES 11. DUKES OF HAZZARD 12. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
SM CITY STA MESA	SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. RED EYE 2. DUKES OF HAZZARD 3. THE CAVE 4. LONGEST YARD 5. BROTHERS GRIMM 6. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 7. SKELETON KEY 8. THE GREAT RAID 9. DUKES OF HAZZARD 10. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	1. RED EYE 2. SKY HIGH 3. THE CAVE 4. BROTHERS GRIMM 5. LONG WEEKEND 6. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 7. LONGEST YARD 8. DUKES OF HAZZARD 9. THE GREAT RAID 10. SKELETON KEY
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT	SM CITY BICUTAN
1. BROTHERS GRIMM 2. THE CAVE 3. RED EYE 4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	1. RED EYE 2. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 3. THE CAVE 4. BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY PAMPANGA	SM CITY BACOR	SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. LONGEST YARD 2. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS 3. SKELETON KEY 4. SKY HIGH 5. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 6. EVIL EYES	1. DUKES OF HAZZARD 2. SKY HIGH 3. RED EYE 4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 5. BROTHERS GRIMM 6. THE CAVE 7. LONGEST YARD 8. D' ANOTHERS	1. RED EYE 2. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 3. DUKES OF HAZZARD 4. SKY HIGH 5. SM CITY LICENA 6. MUST LOVE DOGS 7. BEWITCHED 8. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 9. SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
SM CITY BAGUIO	SM CITY MAKILAO	SM CITY BATAANGAS
1. RED EYE 2. BEWITCHED 3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 4. SKELETON KEY	1. THE GREAT RAID 2. SKY HIGH 3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 4. VALIANT	1. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 2. THE GREAT RAID 3. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS 4. ARAHAN

LUZON		
SM CITY PAMPANGA	SM CITY BACOR	SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. LONGEST YARD 2. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS 3. SKELETON KEY 4. SKY HIGH 5. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 6. EVIL EYES	1. DUKES OF HAZZARD 2. SKY HIGH 3. RED EYE 4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 5. BROTHERS GRIMM 6. THE CAVE 7. LONGEST YARD 8. D' ANOTHERS	1. RED EYE 2. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 3. DUKES OF HAZZARD 4. SKY HIGH 5. SM CITY LICENA 6. MUST LOVE DOGS 7. BEWITCHED 8. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 9. SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
SM CITY BAGUIO	SM CITY MAKILAO	SM CITY BATAANGAS
1. RED EYE 2. BEWITCHED 3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 4. SKELETON KEY	1. THE GREAT RAID 2. SKY HIGH 3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 4. VALIANT	1. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 2. THE GREAT RAID 3. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS 4. ARAHAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO		
SM CITY CEBU	SM CITY DAVAO	SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. THE CAVE 2. BROTHERS GRIMM 3. RED EYE 4. BEWITCHED 5. LONG WEEKEND 6. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 7. WEDDING CRASHERS 8. MUST LOVE DOGS	1. LISENSYADONG KAMAO 2. RESERVED 3. SKELETON KEY 4. BEWITCHED 5. ARAHAN 6. VALIANT 7. RESEVED 8. MUST LOVE DOGS	1. THE GREAT RAID 2. MUST LOVE DOGS 3. MAN OF THE HOUSE 4. SKELETON KEY

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The Craig David influences

How his two albums sold 13 million copies, and why Bono, Usher, P. Diddy and Beyonce are big fans

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

WHAT has Craig David done in his past two albums to sell 13 million copies? Why do the likes of Bono, Usher, Quincy Jones, P. Diddy, Missy Elliot and Beyonce profess to be his fans—Jennifer Lopez, who was quoted as saying she made out (with an unnamed someone) while David's songs played in her bedroom? It's probably the innovative way that David has stirred R&B, pop and hip-hop into one delightful blend of soulful, yet dance floor-ready, grooves said to have "revolutionized the world's perception of urban music."

On the eve of the global release of his latest CD, "The Story Goes" (Warner), David—whose mom is British while dad hails from Grenada—spoke to Inquirer Entertainment by phone from Belgium:



AFTER a two-year absence, he returns with his most personal album to date, "The Story Goes."

What is urban music? It's a bit of a myth, because when I was playing as a DJ it was considered underground and it has not crossed over to the mainstream. When people call music urban, it means it hasn't broken through mainstream radio stations and TV. My music could almost lean towards urban in some ways, but at the same time it has pop melodies so I think it's really hard to lock down exactly what urban music is. I think a lot of what people call urban is actually R&B, pop and hip-hop.

Your father was playing bass in a reggae band. How did he influence you?

I had an early grasp of music. I loved going out to see a lot of the reggae sound systems, the hi-fi equipment they set up in big clubs and on the streets. I loved the vibration, which gave me a different side when I started doing R&B, soul and pop stuff. It definitely helped me.

You said that music in America is segregated.

The radio stations in the UK are a bit more... they kind of cross the border when they play music. I mean, a Top 40 station would be playing a rock track right next to a hip-hop track, and then an R&B track. It keeps your mind open to hearing different genres. In America, they have segregated formats, like if you love R&B, then that's all you listen to, which is fine. But I think the beauty of living in Europe is that you find so many different styles of music in just one radio station.

Have you heard about J. Lo making out while one of your songs played?

I could have serenaded her. All she needed to do was pick up the phone.

You were away for a while. The buzz is that your new CD is vocally more mature and contains a lot of personal stuff. How different was recording it compared to the earlier albums?

I was away for a long time [because] I wanted this to be a very honest record. It was drawn from my experiences, and I wanted to be inspired by what was happening to me then. I asked to take some time off, go to a couple of clubs, buy records and live my life the way I was before, like becoming a DJ again even if only in the studio at home.

What is your greatest wish?

To write the one song that I think would be the most powerful song written. A songwriter always wishes he could've written perfect songs that other people have done.

Like what perfect songs?

Like Elton John's "Candle in the Wind," Stevie Wonder's "Living in the Sky," Michael Jackson's "Thriller," Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing" or "Let's Get It On."

'The Cascades ...

From page A30

ner starts at 7 p.m. For ticket inquiries and reservations, call 911-5555 or go to the nearest SM Ticketnet outlet at any SM Department Store or visit the Araneta Coliseum Box Office.

September 8
Rhythm Authority at Suburbia
Acoustic Jive at Merk's
Elderly Brothers at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 899-1658.
Michaelangelo at Tavern on the Square

September 9
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"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater
DOUGLAS Nierras' Powerdancecelebrates its 18th anniversary at the AFP Theater, 7 p.m.
DJ Elian Habayeb and DJ Mark Calientes feature house music at M Café located at the groundfloor of the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m. Call 757-3000.
Cueshe at SM San Lazaro; 5 p.m.
RJ 'n Friends with the Members Band at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 899-1658.
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3 THE LONG WEEKEND PG-13
11:30, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25

4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG-13
11:20, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25

5 RED EYE PG-13
10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50

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1 RED EYE MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

2 THE CAVE MTRCB PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10 LMF

3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM MTRCB PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

4 THE LONG WEEKEND MTRCB R 13
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

PREMIERE THEATRE SKY HIGH
MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
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11:20, 2:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 BROS. GRIMM

3 SKY HIGH
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
GP

4 THE CAVE
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981440-41

THE CAVE PG-13
1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

SKY HIGH GP
1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00

THE LONG WEEKEND R13
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

RED EYE PG-13
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG-13
12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10

THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG-13
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Ambassador Tolits is this a racket?

By Marinel R. Cruz

"WHY HIM? IS THIS A racket?"

This was the reaction of Analiza Forbes, mother of child star BJ "Tolits" Forbes, when she first heard that her son had been appointed junior ambassador of the government's Bright Child Program.

According to Analiza, she received a text message sometime in July informing her of her son's appointment.

"I ignored it. I found it so unbelievable," BJ's mother told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "I was finally convinced that it's real when someone from the foundation visited us on the set of 'Eat Bulaga' one afternoon."

The Bright Child Program is a project of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), which is a government agency for children's concerns.

According to CWC's Fennie Valencia, one of the 10-member CWC group that picked BJ as ambassador: "We really wanted a popular face for the campaign."

"There were other kids. Pero lutang talaga si BJ—children can easily recognize him."

She added: "He's not only an academic achiever; his psychosocial quotient also appears to be high. He could easily socialize with other people."

BJ, the "ako, ako, lagi na lang ako" boy in a detergent commercial, formally accepted his appointment on Tuesday during a formal contract signing held at Annabel's Restaurant in Quezon City.

"Masaya po ako," BJ said of his new title. "Kaya lang nakalimutan ko na po ang gagawin ko."

BJ will be featured in a series of TV commercials for the Bright Child Program and appear at its important functions, according to

Valencia.

"For one of his commercials, BJ would say 'Ako, ako, lagi na lang ako. Sana marami tayong bright children'," explained Valencia.

"His duty is to encourage parents, teachers and health workers to discover their roles in nurturing children."

The Bright Child Program provides services on health, food, nutrition, psychosocial, education and social protection to children from conception to adolescence. The program also includes post and pre-natal check-up for mothers and the establishment of day-care centers, among others.

"BJ would also visit depressed areas and talk with people there," his mom explained. "He would tell youngsters to be like him—he still gets high grades even with his hectic schedule."

BJ is a mainstay of three TV shows on GMA 7: "Eat Bulaga," "Bubble Gang Jr." and "Lovely



BRIGHT child junior ambassador BJ Forbes with Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes

Day." He is a Grade 2 student of the Muzon Elementary School in Angono, Rizal.

Also present during the signing were CWC executive director Lina Laigo, Interior Secretary and

chair of the CWC Board Angelo Reyes, and other department secretaries.

As Laigo explained in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER: "To be a Bright Child, a child

needs to get the proper level and quality of care, guidance and stimulation to nurture his or her mental, physical and psychological potentials during the first six years of life."

'The Cascades—Encore' onstage this weekend

THE CASCADES PERFORMS tomorrow (Sept. 9) at the Araneta Coliseum and on Sept. 10 at the Manila Hotel.

Billed "The Cascades—Encore," the show treats music-lovers to a sampling of their classic tunes like "The Last Leaf," "Punch and Judy," "Shy Girl," and of course, their chart-topping hit "Rhythm of the Rain," which holds the distinction of being the third largest-selling record in the whole world.

Two songs especially composed for the concert, "Warm Manila Nights," by Gab Lapano, and "My Manila," by Chuck Crews will be performed for the first time by the group.

Joining The Cascades in tomorrow's show are the group Area One (whose members include TV director Bert de Leon and instrumentalist John Lesaca) and famous vocal group The Company.

This musical experience is made possible by Solar Entertainment Corp. and Manila Hotel with



THE '60s are here again with the Cascades

the support of Petron, Manila Bulletin, ETC, RPN, Jack TV, Sports Plus, Solar Sports, EMI, Joey at 92.3, 103.5 K-Lite, 99.5 RT, 96.3 WRock, 94.7 Mellow Touch, RJ 100.3, 105.1 Crossover, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Exclusively His.

Ticket prices for the Araneta show range from P200 (general admission) to P2,200 for the VIP seats. Dinner-show tickets at the Manila Hotel is P3,500 each. Din-

THE CASCADES/A28

Juday and Piolo in sitcom a la 'Will and Grace'?

JUST ASKING: IS IT TRUE THAT Judy Ann Santos is tired of doing dramas? Heard that Juday wanted her new soap with Piolo Pascual to be something like US TV sitcom "Will and Grace" but she was apprehensive about bringing up the idea because the "gay factor" of the plot might not sit too well with Piolo.

In spite of Piolo's vehement denials, I wonder why some quarters still insist that he is gay. It has become a rhetorical question in the biz. Questions lead to more questions that are better left unanswered. The mystery makes Piolo even more desirable, don't you think?

Is it true that Sandara Park has problems with the Philippine immigration—that's why she had to fly back to her native Korea? The teen star said she went home to continue her studies. Or was that just an excuse?

Mark's new crush

IS PAULINE Luna the newest crush of Mark Herras? Knowing how volatile Mark's relationship with Jennylyn Mercado is, I'm sure this

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



could spark another L.Q. between them. When asked about Mark, Pauline was clueless. After being dragged into the Diether Ocampo-Kristine Hermosa split-up, Pauline must be traumatized for being branded as "the other woman."

Besides, Mark and Pauline have the same manager (Lolita Solis) so falling for each other is something La Lolita will not allow. Since they are under the same wing, it will be kinda "incestuous" if they ended up together, huh?

Makeup for Erik

DID ERIK Santos really "shock" his adoring fans at the Duty Free shop in Dubai when the first thing he checked out was makeup for himself? It's really not surprising because like any performer, Erik

needs cosmetics so as not to look pale on stage. Maybe the sales ladies were expecting him to buy manly stuff instead. Did he shop till he dropped? Erik did shop and the ladies' jaws dropped!

Where there's smoke?

WHEN will talks linking Bong Revilla and former Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Josephine Canonizado die down? Josephine was Cesar Montano's leading lady in "Mananabas." Both of them shrugged off the rumors. But insiders claim that at the height of the controversy, Josephine hurriedly flew to Davao to avoid the media circus. They say, when there's smoke, there's fire. Will the Bong-Josephine "playing with fire" story go up in smoke or will it spread like wildfire?

Memories of Mom

I HAD a blast with my beloved colleague Lhar Santiago standing as judges in a new reality show which would be launched sometime November.

The show aims to give dream jobs to contestants. For the pilot

episode, the 100-plus contenders vied for a TV show biz reporter slot. Lhar and I took turns grilling the eager applicants.

I couldn't help but miss my mom because the screening was done in the same studio where my mom used to do "Eye to Eye." As I interrogated the finalists, I realized that the "line of work" my mom pioneered in local show biz remains closest to the hearts of Pinoy. Despite all its absurdities, Pinoy show biz never fails to amuse us when we need it most.

On a roll

RYAN Agoncillo is on a roll. He can't ask for anything more. His career and personal life are in full bloom.

In "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas," Ryan has his "Kool Sa Iskul" and cooking segments. Soon he will launch his "Hi-Tech Patrol" segment which will make him the Mr. Fix-It-Guy for gadgets and equipment. He will also have a "Ryan Ryan Picturan" segment which will culminate in a photo exhibit at the end of the year. Ryan's other show, "Y Speak" on Studio 23 marks its first anniversary this month.

On his new-found acting career, a sitcom with his ladylove Judy Ann Santos is in the works. They are also going to do a movie slated for a Valentine's Day release.

In the meantime, Ryan will have his acting debut on the big screen in "Kutob." He portrays Rica Peralejo's boyfriend, who doesn't believe in supernatural powers. The movie is an official entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Raging Divas as Klownz

THE RAGING Divas are all set to conquer Klownz Araneta on Saturday (Sept. 10). The show called "Raging Divas@ Twilight Zone" promises to be a night of non-stop laughter. Special guest is Ara Mina. Tickets at P400 each are available at the gate.

Star power

THE 12TH National Public Relations Congress will be held on Sept. 22 and 23. Milen de Quiros, president of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), said the congress highlight is a CEO forum, titled: "PR in a Regulated Industry JUDAY/A27

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THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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BUSINESS

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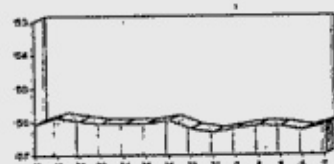
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Y 109.67 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2005

GOLD: \$445.00-445.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 7, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end flat

STOCKS ended flat yesterday, with declines in some blue-chips offset by buying of other stocks that have fallen recently to attractive levels.

Investors remained preoccupied with political concerns in the aftermath of Congress' rejection on Tuesday of impeachment charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 0.62 point to close at 1897.33 after shedding 2.6 percent in the past two sessions, including Tuesday's 1.7 percent loss.

PCCI Securities president Francisco Li-boro said the market's advance earlier in the session might have been a knee-jerk reaction to Wall Street's overnight rally and improving world oil prices.

Analysts said some investors downplayed threats by the political opposition to stage street protests in the coming days after the impeachment complaints against Arroyo were dismissed by her congressional allies. **AP**

VAT ruling, junking of impeachment bid bolster confidence

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government is selling as much as \$1 billion worth of Philippine sovereign bonds in the international market to help plug its budget deficit and complete its financing requirements for the year.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the bonds would mature in January 2016.

Underwritten by Deutsche Bank, UBS and Citibank, the bonds are expected to be priced to yield around 8.375 percent. The government expects to complete the fresh bond float this week.

Analysts said the pricing was attractive enough to secure healthy demand, even though the sale is the first since a political crisis surrounding President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo erupted two months ago.

Ben Yuen, head of Asian fixed income at First State Investments, said the deal should attract solid demand.

The bond will offer at least 10 basis points over existing Philippine 2015 bonds after taking into account its longer maturity. "The demand should be good and it

will tighten in the secondary market," Yuen said.

The Philippines, rated BB-minus by Standard & Poor's, is Asia's most-active sovereign debt issuer outside Japan.

This will be the third time this year that the government will tap the international bond market after it raised \$1.5 billion in January and another \$750 million in May.

The Arroyo administration has programmed for 2005 a total of \$4 billion worth of foreign borrowings—\$3.1 billion from commercial sources like foreign commercial banks and \$900 million from multilateral and bilateral lenders like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

With the borrowing schedule, the government needs to raise at

GOV'T/B3



Globe warns subscribers against text, e-mail scams

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE TELECOM Inc. has warned its nearly 14 million subscribers against fraudulent texts and e-mails.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom said it had been aggressively campaigning against the scams that have victimized wireless subscribers not only here but also abroad.

The National Telecommunications Commission said the number of complaints among local subscribers have been going down.

But what was worrying, according to NTC Chair Ronald Solis, was that more and more Filipinos abroad were falling prey to these scams.

The Philippine consulate in Honolulu had asked local authorities to tighten their guard against text messaging scams after a Filipino couple in Hawaii was conned for \$2,100. An overseas Filipino worker in Hong Kong was also duped by a similar text scam.

Solis said the NTC had initiated the creation of an inter-agency group against fraudulent texts last year. Unfortunately, the government's information campaign was not sufficient. He said operators like Globe must help.

As of Aug. 31, the NTC has received 230 complaints involving text scams.

Froilan Castelo, assistant vice president and head of Globe's regulatory affairs, said they have been using a four-digit number to send out notices and sell their promos.

"We advise our subscribers to refrain from entertaining fraudulent text messages coming from regular 10-digit Globe numbers as these are just scams being perpetrated by lawless elements," Castelo said.

"If they ever receive such a message, we encourage them to inform us immediately so that we can do the necessary action," he added.

Castelo said Globe had sent a text broadcast to its HandypHONE and Touch Mobile customers. There would also be print and radio announcements for wider information dissemination, the Globe executive said.

A sample fraudulent message goes like this: "Globe Telecom G-cash: Congrats for winning Nokia 7610 in our network. To claim your prize plz call toll free #09275979099 DTI NCR permit #2838 series of 2005."

Once the victim calls the number, he will be

GLOBE/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Hike in common carriers' tax pushed /B2

Breaktime: Cost oriented /B2

Forex reserves reach \$17.85B /B3

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PNOC unit, Chinese oil firm in talks on farm-in agreement

Petroleum exploration venture in Calamian area

By Abigail L. Ho

A SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PETROLEUM exploration in the Calamian area in North-west Palawan is set to be signed in the next few days, paving the way for a possible agreement between Philippine National Oil Co. and China National Offshore Oil Corp.

In a recent interview, PNOC president Edgardo Mañalac said negotiations between PNOC Exploration Corp. and CNOOC for a 50-percent farm-in deal were ongoing.

"We're very optimistic of our chances in that area since it's located near the Malam-paya gas find. We're still negotiating with CNOOC for a possible farm-in agreement," Mañalac said.

He said the minimum investment for the first three years of exploration in the area would be between \$17 million and \$20 million.

PNOC-EC is also negotiating with the Department of Energy for another service contract, this time covering the West Balabac area, off the southwesternmost tip of Palawan.

Prospects for the area were also quite good, Mañalac said because of its proximity to the Malaysian border, where several offshore oil and gas fields were located.

Murphy Oil recently discovered the giant Kikeh field, estimated to contain between 400 million and 700 million barrels of oil, in the deepwater area of Sabah, within the Malaysian border.

PNOC-EC's other petroleum service contracts include Service Contract 47, a joint venture with Petronas Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd, and SC 43 covering the Ragay Gulf.

SC 47 covers a 1.5-million hectare area in offshore Mindoro, where the Tablas and Cher-y prospects are situated.

Awarded just last January, Mañalac said geological and geophysical activities, including seismic interpretation, basin evaluation and reprocessing of old seismic lines, were still ongoing in that area.

He said a well should be drilled in the area by next year.

SC 43 covers an area of more than 1 million hectares within the marginally explored Southeast Luzon sedimentary basin, which the DOE has ranked as second only to the already-producing Northwest Palawan area in terms of hydrocarbon prospects.

PNOC-EC completed a transition seismic survey of the area two weeks ago. A total of 152 kilometers of 2D data were gathered.

Drilling of two wells should be done some time next year, Mañalac said.

GOINGS-ON

Security Bank cited

ASIAMONEY, a financial magazine in Asia-Pacific, cited Security Bank Corp. as the "Best Domestic Provider for Local Currency Products" in its 2nd Annual Structured Products Poll.

The poll covered 486 individual respondents composed of corporate finance officers and senior executives from 315 different institutions.

Asiamoney cited Security Bank's SB Equities Inc. as the Philippines' 3rd Best Brokerage House in its 2004 Broker's Poll of more than 80 foreign fund managers.

"It is a definite source of pride that our efforts at product excellence continue to receive international recognition. We are particularly honored that Security Bank is the only Philippine Bank cited in this category," bank president Alberto S. Villalosa said.

Learning venture

YAPSTER e-Conglomerate Inc. and Korean partner, Good Law (GL) Language Family Inc., began their pilot Korean Learning Venture (KLV) undertaking last Aug. 19 in Oakwood, Makati City, where 40 Korean teachers were sent here to learn conversational English.

Yapster e-Conglomerate Inc. specializes in information technology-related activities, including learning, portfolio trading, travel management, insurance, applications development and call center management.

GL was established in 1992 as the only non-governmental organization whose mission is to promote awareness of legal justice by developing the education of law. GL holds conferences and campaigns for the implementation of good laws and abolition of unjust legislation. It is composed of 45,000 members.

Hike in common carriers' tax on PUVs pushed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT would push for the issuance of an executive order that would allow the government to raise its collection of common carriers' tax from public utility vehicles, including jeepneys, buses and taxis.

The DOF believes that the government has been losing huge revenue from the transport sector because of a loophole in the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), or the Tax Code, that allows PUV operators to pay common carriers' taxes that are way below their actual gross earnings.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said an executive order was the preferred and faster way of rectifying the flaw in the law that would allow the government to immediately start collecting the proper taxes from PUV operators. Another way to address the problem,

WE ALREADY KNEW BEFOREHAND THE outcome of that 24-hour marathon session at the House of Representatives the other day.

And we knew it even days before we watched our favorite Congress people on national television, trying hard to explain their individual votes.

But either way they voted, whether pro or anti, one thing was clear to many of us down here in my *barangay* from that live television broadcast. That is, our beloved Congress people might as well just have been picking their noses instead.

THUS, after the longest day in the history of the House, some 230 honorable representatives of the people, finally, once and for all, settled their karaoke bar bills.

No, not those, they actually settled an issue of national concern, which was the most important issue ever to hit the land since the Pops-Martin break-up.

For in a rare well-attended plenary session, those eminent representatives of the people voted on... well, a freaking House committee report.

Mind you, some other business of the House, such as the trillion-peso national debt, never got as much interest from our lawmakers as that particular committee report.

It only goes to show, ladies and gentlemen, that many of our representatives know exactly what their priority should be. And it is none other than "pork."

IT'S clear to us down here that in the past few months, the Palace has been working on certain lawmakers, dangling multimillion-peso "pork" allocations.

The Palace boys were already preparing for that 24-hour marathon session a long time ago.

Ever since Gloriaetta admitted indiscretion concerning the "Hello Garci" tapes, the Palace has been trying to sell to us down here an idea called the "rule of law."

It meant that, even if Gloriaetta already admitted in public that she was the one talking in the "Hello Garci" tapes, which indicated the rigging of the results in the last elections, she was entitled to a fair trial.

And such a trial, under the rule of law, could only take place in Congress.

By sheer coincidence, Congress usually gets billions upon billions of pesos worth of "pork," over which the Palace only has complete control.

With total control over a national budget of hundreds of billions of pesos, this cute administration, aside from rigging the elections, can also rig the trial of Gloriaetta.

STILL, such is the cost of democracy, the so-called rule of law, which the Palace has been rooting for, instead of the public's desperation tactic called "resignation."

As a result, we can now be certain that this strapped cute administration will exceed its limit on the budget deficit this year.

Cost oriented

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



And because the 24-hour marathon nose picking in the House never actually resolved anything, the cost of the rule of law will carry over to next year's budget.

Come on, whoever among those 230 Congress people believed that their oratorical skills solved anything, must have been sleeping during the entire proceeding.

If it did anything at all, the travesty will cost this country a lot of money.

Look, for 2006 alone, expecting to stay in power thanks to the "rule of law," this cute administration is planning to borrow abroad a small sum of almost \$4 billion.

AND if, despite its huge cost called "pork," the House charade the other day did not solve anything in our troubled politics, owing to its utter lack of credibility, do you still think that our lenders abroad will look kindly on our need for more borrowings?

Me, too!

You can bet on it, *bubwit*, the foreign lenders of those \$4 billion in borrowings of this cute administration for next year will ask for higher interest rates.

That is the time-tested and most simple formula for this country to sink deeper into debts.

To think, those hundreds of millions of pesos worth of quit-pro-quo "pork" will all go to, well, some "worthwhile projects" of our beloved congress people.

You know—things like trips abroad.

BUT business will bear the brunt of it all if, as some business leaders feared, the public does not buy that farce in the House, which was telecast live all over the country.

We, the public, may be gullible in a lot of things, and we put our hard-earned money in pyramiding schemes, which surely enjoy the protection of public officials.

But many of us tried to follow the 24-hour marathon session, and it hardly changed our minds regarding our Congress people. We still know that they can be bought.

If the House comedy skit did not resolve anything, the problem remains the same. It is still about the lack of credibility of this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Thus, as business organizations have already pointed out, this cute administration can hardly convince us to take what it calls "sacrifices" for economic reforms.

There is the problem of rising inflation rate, for instance, not to mention the weakening of the peso's exchange rate.

Solutions to these problems, as we have seen in the past 20 years or so, mainly punish the business sector.

Western Union expanding in RP

By Daxim L. Lucas

MONEY TRANSFER FIRM WESTERN UNION will expand its operations in the Philippines to meet the growing demand for financial services in the country and from Filipinos overseas.

Western Union's Asia-Pacific managing director Ian Marsh said the company was positioning itself to capture a bigger slice of the dollar remittance pie.

Western Union is set to ink a deal with one of the country's biggest banks to expand its reach in the local market.

The central bank is projecting that dollars sent home by some 5 million overseas workers and expatriate Filipinos will reach \$10 billion by the end of this year, from \$8.5 billion last year.

"Our biggest competitor is the informal money remittance businesses," Marsh said, adding that Western Union was hoping to win

more clients by emphasizing the speed and safety of its remittance service.

He believes that up to 50 percent of the dollars sent home by Filipinos abroad is coursed through informal channels like the popular "door-to-door" or *padala* schemes that are cheaper but prone to error and theft.

Marsh believes that the Philippine remittance business will grow further, especially since an estimated 80,000 Filipinos are leaving the country monthly to seek opportunities overseas.

The Philippines ranks among the top 25 largest remittance markets in the world, lagging behind India, Mexico, and Eastern European countries that are also large exporters of skilled and unskilled labor.

The Western Union official declined to reveal his firm's local market share, but pointed out that the company was handling up to 14 percent of the total money transfer services worldwide.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 7, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Banco de Oro Unif. Bank	31	31	31	31	175,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	51.5	50.5	50.5	2,349,000
China Banking Corp.	820	820	820	820	260
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,810,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.62	189,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	59	59	49	49	289,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	26	26.5	24,600
Philippine National Bank	37.5	38	36.5	37	17,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	38,000
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	86,000

FINANCIAL SERVICES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	400
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	255	250	255	2805
Manulife Financial Corp.	2800	2805	2800	2805	1,320
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	45,800

COMMUNICATION	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	1,090,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	38,900
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	725	720	720	500,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,290,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	25,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	12,350
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1585	1585	1575	1575	2,880,000
Vanillage Corp.	0.62	0.63	0.6	0.6	9,000,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	43,500

POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	877,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.25	1,800,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	2,132,000
Petrone Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.15	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	100,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	8,000
Aboltiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	166,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	1,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	43,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	103,800
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	103,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34	243,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	39,100
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	93.5	92.5	93.5	163,500
Unimart Corp.	16	16	16	16	3,100
Vitacore Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000

HOLDING FIRMS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.006	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Avaya Corp.	292.5	297.5	285	287.5	64,830
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	25,000
Ajo Nat Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	8,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	1.98	10,030,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	72,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	33,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.74	580,000
Artes Prime Res. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	230,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.04	10,896,000
Bempres Holdings Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,480,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,630,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,517,000
Southeast Asian Cement	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	474,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	41.5	42	40	40	773,200
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,500,000
Global Equities Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	2,440,000
J. S. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.32	127,000
Macro Asia Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.32	9,952,000
Maplewood Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	350,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	8,800,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	3,110,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	207	208	205	206	179,120
SM Investments Corp.	4.45	4.45	3.7	3.7	65,000
Landbay Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Unwired Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	10,000
Wellux Industries Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.94	0.96	0.93	0.93	3,280,000

HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Belle Corp.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	7,504,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.35	1.35	1.3	1.3	275,400

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000

PROPERTY	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Avaya Land Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	14,784,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	470,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,500,000
Flintvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.32	9,535,000
Kook Phil. Properties	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	570,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	220,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	208,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	8,495,000

		MINING			
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.12	1.16	1.04	1.04	910
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.1	1.16	1.04	1.08	2,184
Atlas Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	58,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.5	2,177
Benquet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	244
Benquet Corp. B	26	26	26	26	5
Benquet Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	2,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	8,900
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	212,700
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	62,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	202,000
Philrex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	1,270
Philrex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	680
Semrara Mining Corp.	29	30.5	29	29.5	1,050
United Panaro Mining Co.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	793



BUSINESS ICON AWARD. Taipan Lucio C. Tan (left) receives the Most Distinguished Bicolano Business Icon Award from Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo (right) and the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) in recognition of Tan's successful business ventures, philanthropy and contributions to the Bicol Region. The taipan, who spent his early teens in Naga City, was honored along with six other outstanding Bicolano businessmen during the first Bicol Business Week. Joining Tan are his wife Carmen (second from left) and daughter Karlu Say.

PAL sets conditions for transfer to Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines said it would only move to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 if it could integrate its domestic and overseas operations and if the fees would be reasonable, its top official said.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the airline's operations were separate from that of Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., although both are controlled by Lucio Tan.

"Regardless of whoever operates Naia 3, we would only transfer if they allow us to operate our domestic and international operations in one house. And if the fees would not go up unreasonably," Bautista said in an interview.

Operating under one roof, as PAL does at the Naia 2, would be more efficient in terms of costs and operations, Bautista said.

Naia 3 was meant to be purely an international airport terminal. But it will not be viable without the volume of business brought by PAL, the country's biggest airline.

Aside from the uncertainty of not being able to operate a hub, Bautista said he was worried that

the terminal and aeronautical fees and lease contract prices were going to be much higher in Naia 3 than what the Manila International Airport Authority was charging in Naia 1 and 2.

"Not if AEDC operates Naia 3. If we run the new airport, we won't be charging exorbitant fees," AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay Jr. said in an interview.

AEDC has offered to pay the government \$300 million so it could operate Naia 3. The company was founded by the country's six taipans during the Ramos administration specifically to submit an unsolicited offer to build and operate Naia 3.

Tan owns the entire company now after the five other original incorporators gave up on the project after the government awarded the airport contract to Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) in 1997.

The cigarette tycoon is wooing his former partners in AEDC to buy back their shares and help him secure the Naia 3 project.

Businessman Emilio Yap's Manila Hotel Corp. is buying Fraport's 61 percent in Piatco for \$200 million. He had bought the 20-percent

share of two more foreign stakeholders in Piatco for \$30 million.

Piatco, in turn, is now talking with the government as to how it could operate Naia 3.

Yasay said that should AEDC operate the facility, it would allow PAL to integrate its domestic and international operations.

Forex reserves reach all-time high of \$17.85B

Boosted by Napocor loan, dollar purchases

By Daxim L. Lucas

FOREIGN LOANS of the cash-strapped state power producer and aggressive US dollar purchases of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) pushed up the country's foreign exchange reserves to another all-time high last month.

Documents from the BSP showed that gross international reserves (GIR) rose to \$17.85 billion as of end-August, representing a 1-percent increase from the previous month's level of \$17.67 billion.

"[This] was attributed mainly to the foreign exchange deposit by National Power Corp. from proceeds of its loans, as well as the BSP's foreign exchange operations, and income from investments abroad," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The higher GIR level comes at a time of increased volatility in the foreign exchange market, giving the central bank additional capacity to repel currency speculators.

The GIR account represents the central bank's holdings of US dollars and other foreign currencies, gold bullion, and special drawing rights (the currency of the International Monetary Fund).

The country's dollar reserves are made up mainly of proceeds from the government's foreign loans. The latest figure was boosted by Napocor's \$300-million loan, which it used to fund operations.

This month's GIR level will likely top the \$18-billion mark—another all-time high—on the back of the national government's move to raise \$1 billion from an overseas bond sale initiated yesterday. (See story on page B1.)

More importantly, however, the higher GIR level gives the country additional buffer in the

event of a sudden halt in dollar inflows.

At present, this so-called "import cover" is enough to pay for four months' worth of imported goods and services, the BSP said.

This level is also equivalent to 3.2 times the country's short-term

debt based on original maturity and 1.8 times based on residual maturity—loans which will mature in less than a year, plus interest and principal payments of long- and medium-term loans of the public and private sectors for the next 12 months.

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THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. Synopsis of Annual Statement As of 31 December 2004

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	742,497,626.50
Treasury Bills		100,000,000.00
Mortgage Loans		4,388,671.00
Policy Loans		9,327,603.00
Security Fund		141,244.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		686,861,489.71
Amount Due from Ceding Companies		180,325,190.00
Amount Recoverable from Accepting Companies		432,192.00
Net Life Insurance Premiums & Annuity Considerations Due & Uncollected		4,544,957.00
Accrued Investment Income		25,902,680.63
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		13,011,433.00
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P	1,767,431,886.84

LIABILITIES

Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts	P	136,662,320.00
Policy and Contract Claims		22,412,394.00
Liability for Premium Deposit Funds		115.00
Policy & Contract Liabilities		2,241,635.00
Amount Due to Accepting Companies		3,122,432.00
Amount Payable to Ceding Companies		90,823,877.00
Commissions Payable		4,167,050.00
Accrued Expenses		92,544,579.00
Taxes Payable		17,150,721.00
Unearned Investment Income		1,603,959.00
Other Liabilities		16,155,674.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	386,884,756.00

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	250,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus		50,000,000.00
Contingency Surplus		541,312,193.00
Retained Earnings		539,234,137.84
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	1,380,546,330.84

TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY **P** **1,767,431,886.84**

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

Receivership bid for CAP junked

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court has denied the application of a group of 19 plan holders asking the court to place embattled pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) under a management committee.

Judge Romeo Barza of Branch 61 of the Makati RTC yesterday junked the application of the petitioners led by CAP plan holder Edna Valenzuela as represented by the Pascual-Lopez & Associates Law Offices for failing to present witnesses from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A testimony by SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat was stricken off the record after CAP made this motion in court due to Manabat's failure to appear at the hearing yesterday despite previous notices.

Manabat is on a vacation leave, INQUIRER sources said.

Maricel Pascual-Lopez, legal counsel for the 19 plan holders, said they would submit another application with the court once the SEC has become "more cooperative."

Barza also noted that CAP has not officially filed any petition for rehabilitation with the Makati

RTC. CAP lawyer Joel Bodegon said the petition might be docketed and raffled off to the Makati RTC judges in the next few days.

Plan holders earlier urged the court to consider former Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) president Ernest Leung, former SEC commissioner Monico Jacob and incumbent commissioner Joselia Poblador as possible receivers or head of the management committee.

These 19 plan holders claimed to represent the interest of all 780,000 plan holders of CAP.

In a motion filed on Monday with the Makati RTC Branch 61, Pascual-Lopez & Associates said CAP's admission that it foresaw an "impossibility of meeting its debts when these fall due" created the basis for a management committee to be formed by the court immediately without need of further hearing.

One of CAP's legal counsels, Gilbert Reyes of Poblador, Bautista & Reyes Law Offices, said CAP has yet to study its response to what it considered a collection suit filed by the 19 plan holders. It also deemed the motion urging the creation of a mancom by the court as a separate case reacting to the class suit and not to the company's petition for rehabilitation.

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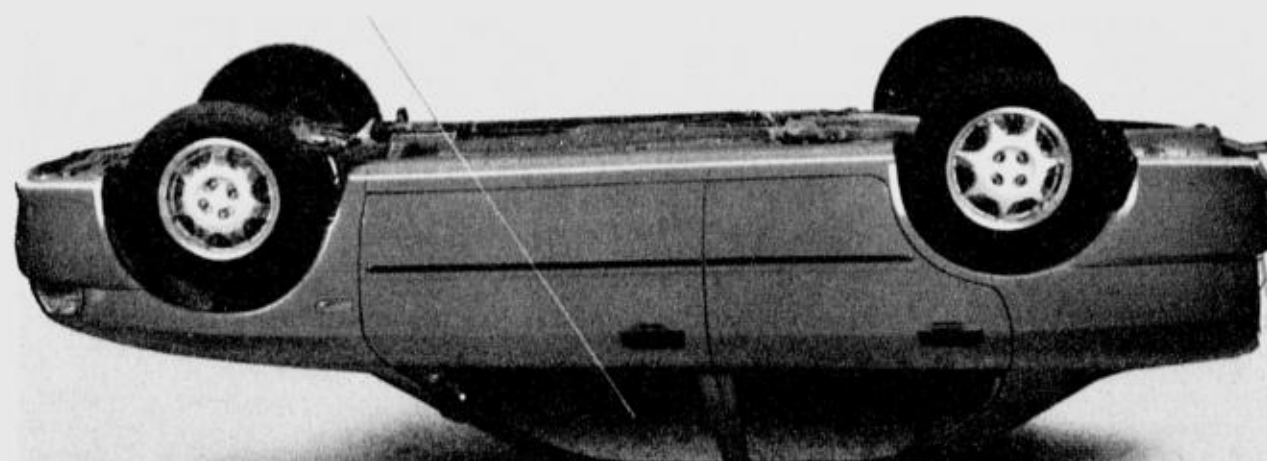
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BDO BANCO DE ORO

From page B1

least \$850 million more through a bond issue to complete the \$3.1 billion it needs to raise from foreign commercial sources this year.

Should the government raise more than \$850 million through the bond float, the excess amount will be used to pre-fund the financing requirement for 2006.

Cruz had said the government would seek proper timing and a favorable response from foreign investors to the Philippine government's plan to borrow abroad before making a debt issue.

The selling of the Philippine bonds will be made after efforts to impeach President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, accused of

rigging the 2004 presidential election, formally died in the House of Representatives after the opposition failed to muster enough votes to push the impeachment proceedings through.

The bond float was also done after the Supreme Court upheld last week the constitutionality of the expanded VAT law, considered the administration's key measure to address the country's lingering fiscal problem.

With the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold the law as constitutional, economic officials expect the high court to lift the temporary restraining order on its implementation in the next few days. With a report from Reuters

People, Events & Products

Globe AutoloadMAX vending machines: 1st in the world

WITH VIRTUALLY EVERY CORNER sari-sari store and retail outlet selling Globe AutoloadMAX, mobile connectivity has indeed become supremely accessible and affordable to all Pinoys. It is even available in pawnshops, passenger terminals, and 24-hour convenience stores. Now, reloading your cellphone has become even more convenient with the launch of Globe AutoloadMAX vending machines - a first in the world from Globe Prepaid, proudly, Filipino-made by the Philippine Vending Corporation.

The Globe AutoloadMAX vending machines bring the ease of over-the-air reloading right into the subscribers' offices. You don't even have to leave your company building to get reloaded and make an urgent call or send text messages. Two vending machines have already been set up in one of the largest call centers in the country. With Globe's latest life-enhancing innovation, even busy employees on the graveyard shift can buy prepaid load anytime.

Joy Santos, Globe's head of prepaid marketing, says: "The new Au-

toloadMAX vending machines offer consumers another convenient option for reloading their Globe or TM phones. We are proud to be the first



GLOBE and TM subscribers can now conveniently reload their prepaid accounts with the new AutoloadMAX vending machines, a first in the world from Globe and the Philippine Vending Corp.

in the world to introduce this innovation, and thus have another opportunity to serve our subscribers and make great things possible for them."

Buying load from these new vending machines is quick and easy: just insert the money for payment, type in the Globe or TM mobile number and the amount of load you want, and wait for the text confirmation. Aside from being convenient, this also gives added privacy to subscribers as compared to the traditional over-the-air loading procedure, since they don't have to disclose their cellphone number to anyone else or write it down in a logbook.

The makers of these vending machines, the Philippine Vending Corporation, has set up over 2000 vending systems in more than 850 strategic locations nationwide - and, with this latest breakthrough, is now a worldwide pioneer. More Globe AutoloadMAX vending units are slated to be placed in other locations within the year, complementing the Globe call card vending machines that can already be found in malls and schools around Metro Manila.



GERMALIN ENTERPRISES BAGS AWARD AT PAL AWARD'S NIGHT

Mr and Mrs Antonio Feliciano of Germalin Enterprises Inc, recipients of double Diamond Awards 2004 and then this year, 2005, given during PAL Award's Night held last Aug. 19 at the grand ballroom of Century Park Hotel. Shown are the recipients with Dr. Lucio Tan in the middle and the rest (from left) Jerry

Calaluan, manager-domestic cargo sales; Henry So Uy, EVP-commercial group and executive assistant to the chair and CEO; Jaime Bautista, president and COO; Emilio Yu, special assistant to the chair and CEO; Enrique Javier, vice president-sales and Edmundo de Luna, SAVP-cargo sales.

Fight Dengue with 'Iwas Dengue Campaign'

PROTECTING YOUR LOVED ONES IS A LOT easier when you have powerful allies on your side.

Dengue is an acute infectious viral disease usually affecting infants and young children. According to the Department of Health (DOH), children ages 1-9 years old are the most affected group in the country today. Dengue patients may suffer from high fever, headache, pain in the eyes, joint and muscle pain. In severe cases, there may be bleeding of the skin, nose, and gums. The disease can be fatal if not addressed properly.

According to the Center for the Disease Control (CDC), mosquitoes in the country carry a stronger, possibly fatal strain that may lead to hemorrhagic fever, thus prompting the organization to declare the Philippines a dengue hotspot. DOH records show a 23 percent increase in dengue cases from January 1 to August 11, 2005 compared to the same period last year. Of these, 189 have died. The DOH has warned the public to take all precautionary measures to prevent a possible outbreak from disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Aside from dengue, mosquitoes can also cause malaria and encephalitis.

As part of its ongoing fight against dengue, SC Johnson Philippines (SCJ), recently launched the Baygon and OFF! Iwas Dengue Campaign 2005. The Iwas Dengue Brigade conducts free spraying operations and distributes OFF! Mosquito Repellent in homes around the country. The Brigade also gives out leaflets and other educational materials on dengue prevention. "Prevention is the best protection against dengue," says SCJohnson general manager Dr. Reinhard Schellner. "Preventive measures include installing screens on doors and windows, always cleaning water passageways and gutters around the house and using Baygon insecticides in your home. When going outdoors, one should always use OFF! Insect Repellent Lotion," Dr. Schellner added. In addition, SCJohnson also set up a hotline number, 1-800-101-DENGUE, that people can call to report dengue outbreaks and request free spraying operations.

Ensure your family's safety. Work with trusted allies in your fight against dengue.

ProductFILES

Titania's foot care for teens

TITANIA INTRODUCES its line of sachets that will provide quality foot care without the hassles of too much spending. Each sachet costs less than P20 so it is very affordable especially for teens who are on a budget. Start off with the Titania Vital Foot Bath to soak tired, aching feet. Follow up with a cleansing foot wash with the Titania Foot Soap to rid the feet of germs. Before sleeping, apply the Titania Deodorant Cream to keep them supple and odor-free. In the morning, before heading for the streets, apply Titania Foot Powder to keep feet fresh and free from excessive sweating all day long. Directions for use are printed on the multi-use sachets, so teens don't have to worry about mistakes. Titania Sachets are easy to carry around and are specially perfect for dormers who have to trek to common bathrooms. Titania, made in Germany, is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp, 2/F Reliance Center Building, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Uugong, Pasig City with tel. nos. 671-0555 and 671-3171.



Vazcom's promo

ON ITS 31ST YEAR, Vazquez Commodities Corp (Vazcom), a member of the VAZ Building Solutions Group would like to invite architects, contractors, engineers, landscapers, and project owners to avail of their significantly reduced prices for its quality Vazpave concrete paving blocks (turf grass, wavy, keyhole, fishscale and brickstone). This offer is being extended by Vazcom as the company's way of helping the public source quality materials at costs more appropriate to today's challenging time. For more information, contact Vazcom at their new tel. nos. 364-4545 and 363-4545; Sucat Branch (826-9316/825-1760); Cubao Branch (412-4545/411-4545); Imus Branch (046-471-4672); Lipa Branch (043-404-1718); Cebu Branch (032-345-0727).



Happy Tintin and child with EQ Dry diapers

FIRST TIME MOTHERS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY nervous about their little bundles of joy. After all, this is the first time they will deal with child care - breastfeeding baby, bathing baby, burping baby, cradling baby to sleep, and changing baby's diaper. All these firsts can be very confusing - enough to discourage any mommy. But first time Mom Tintin Bersola-Babao is one happy Mommy. For despite the challenges of being a first time Mother, Tintin is quite confident with her choice of diapers which makes both of them happy. EQ Dry Diapers are exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, a company of First SLP Holdings Inc and are available in all leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.



Grandpa, grandma get comfy with Dr. P

AS WE TAKE THE time to remember and honor Grandma and Grandpa on Grandparents' Day, it may also be a good opportunity to ask them about their health, needs, and other matters that make their lives more comfortable. And as the elderly are often plagued with problems concerning incontinence, this may be the perfect moment to introduce them to Dr. P. Because Dr. P adult diapers are equipped with super absorbent pads that prevent leaks and maintain that all important dry feeling, as well as an antibiosis and deodorization layer that controls the growth of germs and neutralizes unpleasant odors, our elderly loved ones need not worry about the hassles that come with incontinence. Dr. P comes in different variants: Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence. Exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries and drug stores.



GSK Family Vaccines

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK), a leading research-based pharmaceutical company, recently launched the GSK Family Vaccines, an innovative program that aims to educate families about the need for complete family protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. The program intends to spread information on immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases.



Oriental Garden Makati celebrates Moon Festival

FEDERAL LAND INC, A MEMBER OF THE METRO-bank group of companies, proudly announces the early completion of the Oriental Garden Lotus Tower. The 378-unit tower complements the earlier finished 390-unit Orchid Tower and now enables homeowners and prospective buyers to completely experience the serene lifestyle offered by Oriental Garden Makati. In commemoration of this achievement, Federal Land is celebrating the early turnover with a Moon Festival, an annual Chinese event that celebrates prosperous harvest and the mesmerizing beauty of the full moon. Residents and guests will be treated to an evening of feasting, entertainment, and an exquisite view of the evening sky offered by Oriental Garden Makati's prime location in the city. The event will start at 7 p.m. on Sep. 10 at the podium area of the Oriental Garden Lotus Tower. Oriental Garden Makati is located at Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph.

Time for another quickstop

MONGOLIAN QUICKSTOP OPENS ITS NEWEST outlet in Sta. Lucia East Mall. Franchisees Marivic and Robi Ignacio will be joined by special guests of honor Congressman Dodot Jaworski and his wife Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski for the blessing of Mongolian Quickstop's 5th outlet at the third level of Sta. Lucia East Mall (beside Wendy's) on Sep. 9. So make a quickstop at Mongolian Quickstop Sta. Lucia East Mall where you'll find lots of food choices and hot meals prepared fresh everyday that's truly filling and great tasting for adults and kids alike. Other outlets to make a quickstop are in Festival Mall, Alabang, PB Com Tower Makati, Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Galleria. Soon to open are Mongolian Quickstop SM Foodcourt Makati, SM Sucat and SM San Lazaro. Call tel. no. 850-4226 for catering services and other inquiries.

PATTS hosts grand Q-WIZ

PATTS COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS IS HOSTING the Q-WIZ 2005, a grand competition among today's youth testing their mental skills and knowledge on specific disciplines. The contest, which is in line with the institutions unrelenting thrust for excellence, is scheduled on Sep. 9, at the PATTS newly-opened campus on Lombos Avenue, San Isidro, Parañaque City 1700 and is open to senior high school students. Schools will be represented by teams of three (3) with their designated coach. Elimination rounds will be conducted earlier in the day, to determine the finalists among the competing teams. Q-WIZ 2005 is open to all currently enrolled senior high school students in Metro Manila. More information on Q-WIZ 2005 is available at PATTS through 825-8823 or at www.patts.edu.ph.

IIA-P 58th annual confab

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS-PHILS (IIA-P) is inviting all members and non-members alike to join its 58th Annual Convention to be held at the Boracay Regency Beach Resort on Oct. 19 to 21. With this year's theme, "The Internal Auditor: In the Spotlight", top-level speakers from leading organizations have been lined up to talk about topics on Corporate Governance and the Sarbanes Oxley Act, Treasury Risk Management, Management's expectation from Internal Audit, Control Self-Assessment (CSA), and Information Technology, among others. Register now to avail of special airfare and accommodation rates. Visit the Secretariat at Unit 1807, 18/F Cityland Herrera Towers, Rufino St cor. Valero St, Makati or call tel nos. 812-2754, 813-2553, 753-3271.

GLOBE TELECOM



GREAT DEALS FROM GTBC

Globe Telecom Business Centers, with their propensity for offering the best deals for customers, are now giving the hip, young crowd a chance to grab two cool camera phones at very affordable prices. Keep in stride with the current craze in the mobile technology with Globe Center's featured handsets. The Nokia 6020, available in G-Plan and the Nokia 6610i, available in both G Plan and Prepaid, are the best value Nokia phones you can ever wish for. Have fun with these featured Nokia camera-phones that let you share captured moments with your friends through Globe MMS. The Nokia 6020 also has a video recorder and player, while the Nokia 6610i comes with a built-in FM radio. Get these coveted camera phones at any Globe Center and avail of one of the best deals ever. The Nokia 6610i Prepaid Phonekit is available for only P6,390. Choose from two handsets tailor-fit for the youth without too much pressure on your pocket. Globe even throws in a very nice surprise into the bargain. Subscribe and get the opportunity to tote a stylish Human sling bag absolutely free. Just join Gtext and download the Black Eyed Peas' latest hit "Don't Phunk With My Heart" to get a premium item that's the height of fashion and functionality. The promo runs until Sept. 16 only so hurry to the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center and snag a Nokia 6610i or Nokia 6020 now.

CALTEX PRESENTS SPORT TRUCK CUSTOM CAR AND BIKE SHOW

The 2005 Caltex Delo Sport Truck Custom Car and Bike Show is all set to happen this Sep. 28 to Oct. 2, at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Caltex has been an active supporter of all motorsports related activities and its Delo brand has been sponsoring all the popular 4x4 off-road racing events in the country today. Caltex will reaffirm its Delo Sports Synthetic blend's market leadership as the best engine oil for sport trucks, SUVs, vans and pick-ups during the 5-day exposition. Organized by TradeShow International Inc (TSI), the show will bring under one roof the best customized cars, SUVs, monster trucks, pick-ups, vans and motor bikes to compete in the different classes and the highly coveted Best of Show for each of the three (3) categories namely: Sport Trucks, Custom Cars and Motorbikes. Shown during the



contract signing are (from left): Sophie delos Santos, TSI president and Jean Ernest Maningo, OIC-lubricants marketing manager, Caltex Philippines.

PDI Foto Expo: Digital Weekend

CBV7 MEDIA MASTER AND THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer are partnering for the third time to present "PDI Foto Expo: Digital Weekend", on Sep. 30 to Oct. 2 at the Rockwell Tent, Makati City. The three-day event will gather the biggest consortium of photography-related products and service providers, manufacturers and distributors - intended for both photo professionals and hobbyists, and everyone with interest in photography. Aside from special sales and discounts, hourly raffle, exclusive promos and hands-on product trials, "PDI Foto Expo" will hold career-enhancing seminar-workshops at the nearby The Loft. Some of the country's most respected names in photography will conduct lectures in their fields of expertise.

Schedule of lectures are: Sep. 30 - Sports by Ernie Samantio; Portrait/Glamour and Nude by Dominique James; Travel by George Tapan. Oct. 1 - Digital Darkroom Technique by Jo Avila; Advertising by John Cuat; Fashion and Filmmaking by Xander Angeles. Oct. 2 - Photojournalism by Albert Garcia and Boy Cabrido; Documentary War Photography by Eric Castro (Reuters),

and Aaron Favila (AP), and Dennis Sabangan (EPA).

There will also be an exhibit of photos on the theme "Face: A Depiction of Women in Society." Participating are Wig Tysman, Romy Vitug, Edwin Tuiay, Ibarra Deri, Angie da Silva, Donald Tapan, Sonny Yabao, Chito Vecina, Ben Razon, Derek Soriano, Joe Galves, Jun Barrameda, Willy Avila, Toto Tarroza, Mon Acasio, Gil Nartea, Xander Angeles, Dominique James, George Tapan, Crip Yuson, Patrick Uy, Manny Goloyugo, Alex Baluyot, Jay Javier, Val Rodriguez, Rey Lazo, Bobot Meru, Albert Garcia and Ed Galvez.

A priceless collection of Mount Pinatubo photos by award-winning lensman Albert Garcia will also be auctioned off to benefit Children's Hour and Hand's on Manila.

Entrance to the expo and the exhibit is free. Delegate fee to the three-day seminar-workshops is P3,500. Deadline for registration is on Sept. 15. Limited to 200 slots only. For inquiries, call Chito Vecina at 0917-8554195, or Themes & Motifs at 371-9783, 410-0032 or 635-3267.

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All arnd Maid Yaya 4399250

BEST MAIDS 4932725

IVYLANA MAIDS 4335931

YAYA 4331431

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HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Good Maid Yaya Cook 995-7034

Good Maids Yaya Inil Cook 7572089

Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947

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FOR FIL & FOREIGN CLIENTS

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WE HAVE STAY-IN & PART

TIME MAIDS DRIVERS, ETC.

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WE HAVE STAY-IN & PART

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Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB

w/s-pool 0926-7102225

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READY FOR OCCUPANCY

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520SOM 5BR 5TB 2GRGE TUE-

SAT OPEN HSE 10AM-5PM

MANDALUYONG

NEAR SHAW BLVD

BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-41b

maids 1-2grgeP3.645M&up8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 31b Jacut 3M 9467112

Bnew4br31b CG 9425411 / 12

PASIG

270sqm MONTE VISTA

2 Storey w/Attic, 4BR

Mr. Chua • 0920-9008555

QUEZON CITY

*11 K-2nd KAMUNING

Nr Morato 9210255/9219967

H&L our Lady's Crt Tsoara 300

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9310172 (0916)4400987

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MOLINO P4/mo 529-6117

Near Tgyty 805K 5208410

CONDO/TWNRSE

MAKATI

1.3M RESORT-TYPE nr. Mkl

10% DP to move-in, or 0% or No DP

1st Class • Base 0917-5234223

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RENT 2 OWN CONDO 10%DP

2-4BR Nr D'Fort C-5 / Makati

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HOUSE & LOT

BAYTOWN INDUSTRIAL

Taytay - Angono Blvd., Rizal

20% INVESTMENT DISCOUNT

Fully Developed & Ready for construction

15 mins. from Ortigas Center

BROKERS & AGENTS WELCOME

929-2731, 927-0620, 455-2088

0920-962-2939 • 0917-8335866

CONDO/TWNRSE

MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort

1.2M-11M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br

10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP

10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313228

MAKATI CONDO

Rent/Sale/Ready to move-in

843-0887/887-5318/843-0888

ORIENTAL GARDENS

READY TO MOVE-IN

Std. 1-2BR 4393975 o/c hrs

Std 1-2BR 4393975 o/c hrs

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT

BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-41b

maids 1-2grgeP3.665M&up8903461

MARIKINA

SUMOLONG TH 3M 845-3731

PASIG

Malayan Plaza 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

CONDO NR LIBIS

1.5M 2BR 50m² B-NEW 10%

DP move-in "EZ" terms

Ricky 0918-3236095

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

SAN JUAN

NEAR PGUEVARRA

BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-41b

maids 1-2grgeP3.645M&up8903461

VARIED AREAS

10%DP Lipat Agad!

* Pasig Nr Libis / Ortigas P1.5M Up

* Mkl C5 Nr The Fort 1.3M Up

* Alport Nr SM Bicutan 1.3M Up

2-4BR Condo 0917-8169849

LOT

MANDALUYONG

MAND EDSA 400m² 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

*KATIPUNAN Ext Real lot

nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²

P8,500/m² 0918-9235216 *

BATANGAS

CANYON WOODS 297 SQM

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HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West

Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB

w/s-pool 0926-7102225

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

BAYTOWN INDUSTRIAL

Taytay - Angono Blvd., Rizal

20% INVESTMENT DISCOUNT

Fully Developed & Ready for construction

15 mins. from Ortigas Center

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MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort

1.2M-11M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br

10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP

10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313228

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Std. 1-2BR 4393975 o/c hrs

Std 1-2BR 4393975 o/c hrs

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT

BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-41b

maids 1-2grgeP3.665M&up8903461

MARIKINA

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for negotiated sale:

PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
LAGUNA					
1 B3 L26 Lanete St., Progressive Village I Tagapo Sta. Rosa Laguna	Single Attached	40.00	112.00	498,960.00	occupied
2 B20 L4 Palusapia St., Alfonso Homes I, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	Townhouse	60.00	54.00	418,440.00	occupied
3 B4 L20 Ipi St., Mahogany Village Ph. 1 Tatalon, Cabuyao, Laguna	Rowhouse	26.00	47.00	194,920.00	vacant
4 B5 L27 Villa Olympia Ph. IV San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	Single Attached	66.00	120.00	680,900.00	occupied
VILLA MILAGROSA TOWNHOMES BGY. SAN VICENTE, SAN PEDRO LAGUNA					
1 Blik. 1 Lot 6	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	566,225.00	occupied
2 Blik. 1 Lot 28	Townhouse	46.25	43.00	664,125.00	occupied
3 Blik. 1 Lot 31	Townhouse	41.00	33.00	583,340.30	vacant
4 Blik. 4 Lot 3	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	549,725.00	vacant
5 Blik. 5 Lot 14	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	566,225.00	occupied
6 Blik. 5 Lot 22	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	556,067.91	occupied
7 Blik. 6 Lot 8	Townhouse	41.00	30.00	574,560.60	occupied
8 Blik. 6 Lot 10	Townhouse	41.00	46.00	572,440.00	occupied
9 Blik. 8 Lot 2	Townhouse	41.00	35.00	578,490.00	vacant
10 Blik. 9 Lot 6	Townhouse	41.00	33.00	649,890.00	occupied
11 Blik. 1 Lot 16	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	566,225.00	vacant
12 Blik. 3 Lot 6	Townhouse	46.25	48.00	566,225.00	vacant
13 Blik. 5 Lot 5	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	560,725.00	vacant
14 Blik. 5 Lot 7	Townhouse	41.00	35.00	517,990.00	vacant
15 Blik. 5 Lot 18	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	566,225.00	vacant
QUEZON CITY					
1 Blik. 7 Lot 30 Aphrodite St., North Olympus Subd., Bgy. Kalligayahan Nova QC	Townhouse	48.00	66.00	704,880.00	vacant
2 Blik. 8 Lot 104 Dona Juliana St., Fillinvest II Batasan Hills QC	Lot only	-	325.00	1,787,500.00	vacant

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-59, 897-32-90
OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

Jonathan Briones - Villa Milagrosa, San Pedro Laguna properties
- 052-6206338
Gloria Virata - Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao Laguna properties
Gerardine Nicdao - Quezon City properties

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
OIC-VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2005)



Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
Office of the City Mayor

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project: Proposed Construction of Fence at New City Hall
Location: Malagapas, Rosary Heights X, Cotabato City
Appropriation/Approved Budget for the Contract: P16,871,345.40
Source of Fund: Trust Fund

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
I.	Excavation	435.00 cu m
II.	Pile Works	870.00 pcs
III.	Concrete Works:	
a)	Wall Footing	45.00 cu m
b)	Column Footing	75.17 cu m
c)	Concrete Column	82.00 cu m
IV.	Masonry Works	
a)	CHB Walling/Gutter	997.00 sq m
b)	Iron/Metal Works	153.00 units
V.	Ground House	3.00 units
VII.	Electrical System	Lumpsum
VIII.	Landscaping	Lumpsum
IX.	Painting	1,841.00 sq m

The conduct of bid for this project, particularly criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Interested bidders shall strictly follow the schedule of bid as follows:
Eligibility check for interested bidders:
September 16, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato

City: Cotabato
Pre-bid conference:
November 7, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato

City: Cotabato
Opening of Bids/Submission of Bids:
November 17, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato City

A non-refundable bidder's fee of P10,000.00 will be collected by the City Government of Cotabato from each interested bidder.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formalities thereon and disregard any bids to the advantage of the City Government. Bid documents may be secured from the Office on General Services anytime during office hours.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MANDO V. SINSUAT JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI - September 1 & 8, 2005)

Gawa hindi dada at PMAP conference

REBUILDING THE NATION THROUGH A movement to jolt Filipinos into action is the message of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). With the theme, "Gawa, Hindi Dada! (Delivering Results Thru Purposeful Action)", PMAP calls for sustained and purposeful series of actions so that a culture of success and excellence becomes a shared value and vision.

The conference will be appreciated by different types of organizations in all sectors of society who desire to improve the level of their performance. The event shall be akin to a roadman; where participants shall be armed with a mindset of urgency and collective action, yet made clearly aware of pitfalls, dead-ends and detours along the way.

PMAP leads the journey, taking off the initial plans and heading towards the final results that will be surveyed from the individual, organizational, and national points of view.

The 42nd PMAP Annual Conference will be held on September 28-30 at the Waterfront Hotel Lahug, Cebu City. For reservations and inquiries, contact the PMAP Professional Staff through telephone numbers (02) 726-1532/81/88 or email pmmap@pmmap.org.ph.

Republic of the Philippines FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC.

Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal
PGH Compound, Taft Avenue Manila

The Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) has received a grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) for the "Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines."

FECFI invites sealed bids from construction firms for the construction and completion of a covered waiting area beside the main entrance of the Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal consisting of reinforced concrete foundation, metal structure and reflective polycarbonate roofing. The waiting area to be constructed is of approximate 130 sqm.

Interested bidders may purchase Bidding Documents from the office of Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal, PGH Compound, Taft Ave., Manila starting Wednesday, September 7, 2005. **Deadline of submission is on September 19, 2005, 2pm.** For clarification, you may contact at Tel. No. 404-3738.

The FECFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect herein and to accept the offer as may be considered most advantageous to the Foundation. The FECFI will not answer any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective proposals, nor will the FECFI guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MARITA V. T. REYES, MD

(PDI-Sept. 7 & 8, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Cebu Priority Bridges 2005, Package I
Brief Description	1. Reconstruction of Banco-banco Bridge (RCDG), Baljean, Badian, Cebu 2. Reconstruction of Madridejos Bridge (RCDG), Alegria, Cebu 3. Reconstruction of Legaspi Bridge (FS), Alegria, Cebu 4. Reconstruction of Tomandoc Bridge (FS), Alegria, Cebu Construction of Reinforced Concrete Deck Girder (RCDG) and Flat Slab Bridges (FS)
Approved Budget for the Contract	P8,312,243.29
Contract Duration	210 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract (Medium A category), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 08-15, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 08-15, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 15, 2005
4. Notice of results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 23, 2005
5. Issuance of bid Documents	Sept. 26, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 28, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Oct. 10, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P150.00) to the Province of Cebu Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-INFRA Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the same address.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents (which includes Plans and Specifications) only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) to the Cashier of the Province of Cebu.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Posted at PGSO, PIO & www.cebup.gov.ph

Approved:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC-INFRA Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Asphalting of Malabuyoc/Alegria Road Sections
Location	Malabuyoc/Alegria, Cebu
Brief Description	Road Asphalting with Line Ditching
Approved Budget for the Contract	P13,483,795.02
Contract Duration	75 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract (Medium A category), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 08-15, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 08-15, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 15, 2005
4. Notice of results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 23, 2005
5. Issuance of bid Documents	Sept. 26, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 28, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Oct. 10, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P150.00) to the Province of Cebu Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-INFRA Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the same address.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents (which includes Plans and Specifications) only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cashier of the Province of Cebu.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Posted at PGSO, PIO & www.cebup.gov.ph

Approved:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC-INFRA Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2005)



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos. 925-47-93 to 97
Email: emb@denr.gov.ph Visit us at <http://www.emb.gov.ph>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) for the proposed Isabela Integrated Coal Mine-Mouth Power Plant Project to be located in the Municipality of Benito Soliven and Naguilan and the City Cauayan.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Isabela Integrated Coal Mine-Mouth Power Plant Project to attend a public hearing on September 30, 2005, 1:00 PM at the Manuel T. Respiro Coliseum, in the Municipality of Reina Mercedes. This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Reynaldo P. Alcanses, EIA Division Chief or with the Environmental Management Bureau - Region II (EMB) Nursery Compound, San Gabriel Village, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan prior to the said hearing.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region II) on or before September 26, 2005.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Engr. Debbie Liao or Engr. Villalva at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 41.

Protect the environment ... Protect life...

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2005)



NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NOCECO) Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

September 01, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NOCECO invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

ITEMS	QUANTITY
SF6 Power Circuit Breaker, 69KV (including accessories & relays)	2 units
Current Transformer, 72.5KV rated voltage	6 units

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from NOCECO Main Office, Naga, Brgy. Biniculi, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Pre-bid conference will be held on September 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NOCECO Conference Room. All prospective bidders must attend the pre-bid conference as the schedule of the opening of bids will be announced during the conference.

NOCECO assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. NOCECO also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous.

For more details, you may inquire from NOCECO Purchasing Unit at the address stated above or you may call telephone nos. (034)4712-170, (034)4713-359, (telex) 4712-829 or e-mail us at nceco@lambert.com.ph.

(Sgd.) GILBERTO M. CANLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2006 ANNUAL CONTRACT ON RENTAL OF VARIOUS HEAVY AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR BACMAN GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (BGPF) (ON-CALL PRIORITY BASIS)
EDC 05-036-1

The Approved Budget is P 22,430,200.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is One (1) year. The ceiling rates shall be based on the prevailing ACCEL guidebook Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Nermie P. Callang) starting September 1, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00)

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 16, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at PNOC-EDC/Bacman Geothermal Production Field Admin Office, Admin Complex, Sorsogon.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 30, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2005)

BAC CHAIRMAN

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2006 ANNUAL HAULING CONTRACT FOR NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT (ON-CALL PRIORITY BASIS)
EDC 05-131

The Approved Budget is P 2,500,000.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is one (1) year. Engagement is "on-call" basis

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Nermie P. Callang) starting September 1, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00)

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 9, 2005, 1:00 p.m. at PNOC-EDC/NGGP Admin Complex, Brgy. Malim, Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 22, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2005)

BAC CHAIRMAN

Virgin of Peñafrancia festivities in Manila

UNABLE TO GO TO NAGA CITY FOR THE PEÑAFRANCIA FESTIVITIES? You may still experience it by joining the **Metro Manila festivities on September 8, 9, 10 and 11.**

The **Peñafrancia Devotees Association of Metro Manila**, headed by its President, Dr. Charito Prieto-Felipe, is inviting you to the Annual Metro Manila Festivities in celebration of the **Feast of the Virgin of Peñafrancia, the miraculous Patroness of the Bicol Region, our Blessed "INA"**.

After a motorcade procession on September 8 at 2:30 p.m. that will pass through the major streets of Mandaluyong and Makati, a **Triduum of Novena Prayers and Masses for "INA" will be held at the St. Andrew the Apostle Church at Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo St.) Bel-Air Makati, every 6 p.m. on September 8, 9, and 10.**

On **September 11, Sunday at 4 p.m.**, experience a centuries-

old practice when you take part in the traditional **Peñafrancia Fluvial Procession along the Pasig River**, from our embarkation point at the Hospicio de San Jose at the Ayala Bridge to Jones Bridge, Escolta, Manila. All devotees are invited to be there. A large decorated barge with the Blessed Virgin of Peñafrancia on board will be accompanied by all-male devotees and the Philippine Coast Guards present during the Fluvial Procession. So, please be there and join "INA" on board.

On **September 11, Sunday at 6 p.m.**, a solemn **concelebrated High Mass led by Bishop Nestor Cariño** will be the highlight of the festivities, with the **Manila Cathedral as its venue.**

Please join us in honoring and thanking "INA" through our loving presence and prayers, in these Triduum of Novenas, Processions and Masses.

For inquiries, please call the Peñafrancia Devotees Association's Secretariat at 531-5177, 531-9430, 531-5906 and 531-6158.

Manila Memorial Park
 SUGAT
 HOLY CROSS
 DASMARINAS
 CEBU
 DAVAO
 612 8151350/30
 612 833037/1517
BULACAN

THURSDAY,
 SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



THE HERITAGE PARK
 FORT BONIFACIO
 Funeral Home and Crematory
 845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

*"On This Day O Beautiful Mother,
 We Give You Our Love"*

Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

December 6, 1937 – September 8, 2003



Today, the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, her beloved family commemorates the 2nd year of her passing.

Husband: Nardi Silos

Children and Grandchildren:

Ramy, Bo, Alex, Lean, Ramby, Joshua and Jonah Roxas

Randy, Lindy, Nikki, Tea, and Matti Roxas

Monty, Tina, Julian, Alyssa, and Andy Roxas

Jojo and Rica Roxas

Kim, Sonia, Gabriela and Andrea Silos

Miguel Silos

Sisters : Myrna, Millette and Tessie

Brothers : Tits, Bobby and Larny

Deceased loved ones: Lorenzo, Expedita, Andy, Gregg, and Nats

We, her family, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Our Beloved

HONESTO BAÑEZ ADVIENTO

of Gattaran, Cagayan

*Peacefully joined the bosom of our Lord
 on September 6, 2005 at the age of 73.*

His loving wife, Elnora, children Nelia, Justinian, Honesto Jr., Ramon, Grace and Lorna as well as his brother Francis and sister Janet, together with his in-laws, nephews and nieces, as well as grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio at 10:00 a.m. of Saturday, September 10, 2005.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that well wishers send donations to the Basilica Minore de Nuestra Señora de Piat, Cagayan.

On the Occasion of the
 FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 of our dearly beloved son

SUNNY JESUS C. SAGISI

(February 8, 1975 – September 8, 2004)

We his parents, sister, sons and relatives thank the LORD for the joys of love and life we had with him.

GOD has you in HIS keeping, we have you in our hearts.

We thank all his friends who shared their love and cares for him and supported us in the hour of bereavement. We shall be forever grateful.

ALFREDO "EDENG" Z. MANOTO SR.

Of Calamba Laguna
 (1927 – 2005)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 78.

His wife YAYANG, children and in-laws SUSAN & JESS HAM, BOYET & CAROL MANOTO, MERCY & CECILIO SANTOS; grandchildren JOHANN, MAYBELLE, BRYAN CHARLES ALFRED & LORRAINE CHRISTINE & ALVIN; brothers & sisters TITA BARRINUEVO, HERMINIA RABE, CONSOR DELA CRUZ, OCHIE VILLARDO request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
 LAGUNA MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

Interment will be on September 10, 2005 at
 ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY Calamba Laguna

Contact Person – MERCY (049) 547-4561
 (049) 545-1165
 0919-525-1102

THE GUEVENT GROUP OF COMPANIES

announces with great sorrow the passing away of its dearly beloved
 Director and Vice President for External Affairs

NARCISO DOLAR MONFORT, M.D.

(May 01, 1928-September 05, 2005)

Former Congressman, 4th District Iloilo

Founding President of the Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls

On Thursday, September 8, 2005,
 his body will be flown to Iloilo
 and will lie in state at the St. Isidore Parish in P.D. Monfort, Dumangas, Iloilo.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 11, 2005
 at the P.D. Monfort South Cemetery after the 7:00 am
 Necrological Services and Mass.

Officers and Staff request the pious readers
 to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In lieu of flowers, your prayers, masses and donations to the
 PRAYER WARRIORS OF THE HOLY SOULS
 are most welcome.

Aquatic Agro-Industrial Corporation
 Asian High Technology Corporation
 Bingo King Systems Philippines
 CPS & Associates Incorporated
 G & S Transport Corporation (AVIS)
 G & S Travel and Tours, Inc.
 Greymatter Unlimited, Inc.
 Guevent Industrial Development Corp.
 Guevent Insurance Broker Corporation
 Guevent Recreational & Entertainment Corp

Guevara Foundation Incorporated
 Honeycomb Builders Inc.
 Inter-Active Entertainment Solutions Tech
 Konig Wheels (USA), Inc.
 Monfort Foundation Inc.
 PAN-MAR Corporation
 Radiowealth Finance Company Inc.
 RFC Hongkong Ltd
 Seed Capital Ventures Incorporated
 Tree's Company

Francisco M. Ambas, Jr

June 16, 1951 – September 5, 2005

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 5th day of September 2005 at the age of 54.
 His bereaved family and friends request the pious reader to pray for his eternal repose.

He is survived by his wife Lorna Cruz-Ambas, son H. Francisco "Kiko" and daughter Karissa "Kookie", his mother Magdalena Ambas, and siblings Celestino, Rosario, Carmelita, Flor Amor, Maria Theresa and Fernando.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla de San Francisco, in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be said daily at 7 pm. The Funeral Mass will be at 9 am on Saturday, September 10.
 Cremation Rites will follow at Heritage Park.

Marciana "Chaneng" Cuevas Castillo

Born: November 2, 1933

Peacefully joined her Creator on Sept. 4, 2005 at the age of 72.

Her bereaved husband: Juan "Johnny" Casas Castillo (†); sons & daughters-in-law Benny & Eya, Catcho & Denia, Louie & Lina, Arnel, Miday, Lady & Leng, Willy & Cris; daughters & sons-in-law Perla & Totong, Lilla & Rudy, Cherry & Manny, Techie & Brandy; grandchildren & spouses Quincy & Jaime Jr., Ivan & Daisy, Lek, Ivy & Dennis, Bing, Icy & Embet, VJ & Bong, Igay & Joven, Jhut, JL & Anne, Giorgio, Karlo, Mark, Sergio, CJ, Ira, Nico, Gracey, Nikki, Issa, Denden, Nathan, Joaquin, Tristan & Jana; great grandchildren Ruzella, Niko, Ayellie, Cy, Gabe, Juliano, Sofia, Isis, Ayle & Boatrice; sisters, brothers & spouses Nilo & Vener, Juaning & Moises, Lelet & Rolly, Ony & Marita, Henny & Josie; and other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Castillo Residence #522 T. Soli St., Aguho Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, after the 1:30 pm Mass at San Roque Parish Church, Brgy. Poblacion Pateros, Metro Manila.

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

CONCEPCION (Conchita) P. ABELEDA
 died peacefully on September 5, 2005
 at the age of 84.

Her loving husband Benjamin Sr.; children Antonio, Benjamin Jr., Terenta, Adonis and Dick; grandchildren, in-laws and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel K, La Funeraria Paz, Annetta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 11, 2005 at Himilayan Pilipino after the 1:30 p.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Balfour Beatty
Power Networks



Pasil UK Bridge

Province of Kalinga

INAUGURATION



Road to the Province of Kalinga



DPWH, Kalinga officials with Balfour Cleveland Consortium



Ribbon Cutting by Mr. DH Grahame Coles, Congressman Lawrence Wacnang and DPWH Asec. Manuel Agyao



Unveiling of Pasil bridge Marker



UNIQUELY STRONGER, MORE PERMANENT, MORE ECONOMICAL, THAN ANY OTHER COMPARATIVE SUPERSTRUCTURE KNOWN TO MAN.



Congressman Lawrence Wacnang



DPWH, Kalinga and Balfour Cleveland officials



Blessing of the Bridge



Mr. Grahame Coles, delivering a speech in behalf of British Ambassador Peter Beckingham



Asec. Manuel Agyao addressing the people of Kalinga

A major milestone in the alleviation of poverty has been achieved with the recent inauguration of Pasil UK Bridge. A permanent monument marking the cooperation between the Philippines and United Kingdom Governments.

The PASIL UK BRIDGE is a major link joining the National Highway traversing the Cordillera between BAGUIO - BONTOC & KALINGA making the movement of people, produce and livestock an all-weather, all year-round activity. The supply and installation of this Permanent Modular Truss Callender Hamilton Bridge, a 96-metre single span, crossing the Pasil River was made possible by active encouragement and co-operation of Congressman Lawrence Wacnang and the good people of Kalinga Province.

Special Thanks to the following officials:

Hon. Sec. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. (DPWH) BAH
Hon. Usec. Manuel M. Bonoan (DPWH)
Hon. Asec. Manuel S. Agyao (DPWH) TINOC
Mr. Mariano R. Alquiza (DPWH-CAR)
Mr. Ramon A. Cacatian (DPWH-SBP-PMO)
Mr. Constante R. Sarmiento (DPWH-Kalinga) LA UNION
Hon. Gov. Dominador T. Belac (Kalinga) IFUGAO
Hon. Vice Gov. Rommel W. Diasen (Kalinga)
Hon. Mayor Allan Jesse C. Mangaoang
Provincial Board Members of Kalinga
Municipal Mayors of Kalinga
Barangay Chairman Ringo Bucalen Quezon

PASIL UK BRIDGE
Tomangan, Pasil, Kalinga

**A TASTE of melting
pot Macau**
/D3

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Secrets to perfect stir-frying

THE SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI IS finally in Manila! The society aims to promote Italian culture through language, food, history, design, art and sport. Last Saturday, Margarita Fores prepared dinner for SDA in her Urdaneta home and, as expected, everything was perfect! It was quite an evening of excellent food, wine and conversation, as well as interesting people.

The Società has a whole set of activities lined up for its members, including courses on language, food, art, poetry, lifestyle, design and just about everything and anything Italian. For those interested, call 0917-8838382.

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras

I am just starting to explore the art of Chinese stir-frying. However, I can't seem to get that wok taste. If you don't mind, may I have some tips on stir-frying and wok care?

DONNA MARIE

That flavor that you can't quite explain comes from three things: A well-seasoned wok, perfect cooking time and proper heat. Here are tips for that perfect stir-fry:

Stir-frying is a quick process done over high heat to lock in flavors.

Have all ingredients ready before you start. Your wok and the ingredients on it cannot wait for you. Cut ingredients in uniform sizes so they cook evenly at the same time.

Heat wok over medium-high heat for a minute. One of my teachers used to tell me, heat the wok until it's smoking, then add oil. Do not do this for non-stick woks, though, as, it is said, this practice not just ruins the coating but is also harmful to the health.

When you add the oil, adjust the heat, higher or lower, or as you see fit. Over time you'll be able to tell when it's time to turn the heat up or when it's best to lower the temperature. This depends on what you are stir-frying.

Peanut oil is one of the best to use as its smoking point is higher than others.

Make sure to stir-fry in order. Put in ingredients that cook longer first and those that cook easily last.

If including meats, remove them first before adding vegetables so as not to overcook them. Remember to cook only until the meat changes color.

In the case of vegetables, root vegetables go in first, flowers next (broccoli and cauliflower), leafy greens last. Make sure vegetables are cleaned then dried before adding to wok.

It is best to combine all seasonings (soy sauce, sugar, salt, pepper, stock) in a bowl; mix well before incorporating. This distributes flavors evenly and cuts the cooking time as opposed to putting each ingredient in and mixing.

If you are uncertain about the cooking time for each ingredient, you can stir-fry in batches. Stir-fry the same ingredients together at the same time. After each ingredient is cooked, take it out of the wok and set it aside. Then, combine pre-cooked ingredients toward the end to put the dish together, seasoning to taste. This does not mean that you can stir-fry way before serving. Stir-fried dishes are best served and consumed immediately after they are cooked.

Do not overstuff your wok. An overloaded wok affects temperature and thus cooks inefficiently and unevenly. A wok that is half-full, or less than half-full, works best.

To use your wok to deep fry, fill only to two-thirds with oil.

Detailed wok care, what wok to buy and seasoning techniques to follow in succeeding issues.

Can you give me the recipe for peanut butter? I have peanuts here at home. Can I use a blender in preparing peanut butter?

C. AQUINO, ILOILO

A regular blender? Not a good idea, unless you're making a small batch. Of course, that depends on your blender. A food processor works much better or, if all else fails, use a mortar and pestle. Downsides: by the time you're done, you'd be so tired you'd wish you had bought peanut butter instead!

Peanut butter is no more than ground peanuts, oil and salt. Sugar is sometimes added for sweetness. The chunky or creamy quality of peanut butter will depend on your grinding and preference. Peanut butter was developed in 1890 and was first sold as a "health food" at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

Peanut Butter

2 c roasted, shelled peanuts, unsalted (if using salted peanuts, omit salt in the recipe)

Pinch of salt and sugar, optional or to taste

3-5 tbsp peanut oil, depending on how creamy and smooth you like it

Process to a fine paste, adding oil in a fine stream until desired consistency is achieved. Store in refrigerator. Best consumed within a week.

Where can I buy a chocolate fountain?

MR. ED

From The Machine Man, Harry Chua, who



HAVING a marvelous time: Rose King; the author; Beth Romualdez; Giancarlo Vanolli, cultural attaché, Italian Embassy; Cinzia Parisotto, one of the founders of SDA Manila and one of its language instructors; Susan Reyes; Sari Yap; and Jeannie Goulbourn

The Chinese way is to have a well-seasoned wok, among other things

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Fair warning: chocolate fountains are not cheap! Call 5312810.

Here are two more interesting phone numbers:

1. For fresh carabao's milk, low-fat yogurt drinks, low-fat cottage cheese, quesong puti and low-fat pastillas—Saint Mary Dairy, 8232835

and 0917-2041952. They deliver!
2. For delicious lechon, Aling Loring, 7242867.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

**All the best,
Carlo Rossi from California.**

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.

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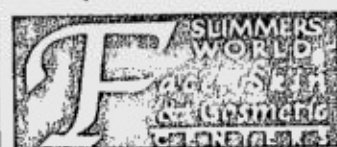
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LIFESTYLE

Phone scam targets credit cardholders

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS, BE warned. You might receive telephone calls and letters with offers to upgrade your card. If you are enticed by the offer and give them the information they ask for, you might find that your card has been used for fraudulent transactions.

It wrote to a reader. She wrote us about her experience hoping it would serve as a warning to other cardholders.

She wrote: "The caller said, because of my good credit standing, the bank was upgrading my account to a Gold variant which would increase my credit limit. However, he said he needed my card, as well as my PIN (personal identity number) to facilitate the release of my upgraded credit

card."

She gave her PIN, as well as other information requested by the caller.

It was only when she received her bill that she realized she was duped. "I found a loan I did not make, as well as unauthorized online transactions made through my credit card account."

Helpful tips

For the benefit of our readers, here are suggestions from a credit consultant on how cardholders can protect themselves against unscrupulous persons:

- Banks do not ask their customers to return their credit cards (even after they have expired).
- Remember that your personal identification number is your

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



unique signature and a security feature that must never be compromised.

• Credit card companies do not ask for your PIN to verify any transaction—a personal identity number (PIN) is something you need to encode in order to confirm electronic transactions.

• If you feel you have disclosed your PIN to an unauthorized party, call your card company immediately.

If you receive a call or letter offering to upgrade your account, be sure to call the credit card company for verification.

Unpaid account

This is a letter from a reader who requested anonymity for obvious reasons:

"I read your previous column regarding credit card payments. I am really very worried these days since our finances cannot cope with our credit card bills. My question is, will I go to jail if I cannot pay my bills?"

"I honestly have no intention of running away from my obligation, it is just that I cannot pay them this time. Please advise me on what to do."

Here is the reply of our credit

card adviser:

Creditors recognize that there are instances when debtors are unable to pay their dues. Reasons vary such as an emergency in the family or temporary loss of income. Instead of hiding, we advise the cardholder to come forward and call his creditors to advise them of the situation. Try to work out a compromise or payment agreement. This will also ensure that his credit record will remain untainted.

Hairy ads on TV

We agree with the observation of freelance writer Ma. Congee S. Gomez that there are too many hair-care commercials on television. These ads, as she said, are

Here are excerpts from her letter: "Prime-time programs are now overloaded with hair commercials that barely leave valuable lessons... I agree that advertisements are the lifeblood of the industry."

"But hanggang pahaba na lang ba tayo ng buhok when we could go beyond the effects of bounce, hip-wriggling moves, or two-inch additional length? I want to 'blame' the agencies' pools of creative people for this 'lack of originality.' Think of the effect of their advertisements on viewers."

"Please spare our minds from these hairy testimonials as we (try to) relax (in front of our television sets)."

E-mail mvvgiron07@yahoo.com

Hands-on training on baking, cake decorating, restaurant service

MAYA KITCHEN OFFERS THE following classes on basic cooking: "Basic Cake Decorating," Sept. 10 and 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., will share practical ideas and experiences on cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering and basic flowers including bunching techniques. There's also an individual workshop on icing application and cake decorating.

"Basic Cooking," Sept. 13-16 or 27-30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will provide essential factors on proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjuncting and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation, plus more topics included with free Mix & Match cookbook.

Make the right impression by

attending a class on "Basic Waitering and Bartending," Sept. 17 and 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and gain all the skills to become a professional bartender and waiter. Learn basic setup, techniques of suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding and skirt-ting bar tools and glassware, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish plus actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting.

Finally, learn plain and fancy variations like bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes on "Basic Baking," Sept. 20-23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This course also emphasizes the hands-on application of fundamentals of standard baking. Attendees will get a free cookbook.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays to Saturdays) at 8/L Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185 or 8925011 loc. 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Recipes from the masters

The Reggie Aspiras School of

Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Sept. 12—Honey Chicken (all new)—Honey Roast, Honey Barbecue, Soy Chicken, Honey Mustard Baked. Learn six delicious and easy recipes, salad and side dishes.

Sept. 14—Recipes from Master Chefs (Revival 2002)—Fillets of Beef with Chili Sauce, Avocado Relish and Olive Bread, Crusted Grouper with Chive Oil and Crispy Leeks, Prawns and Lobster Sauce with Gruyere Souffle, Foie Gras with Whole Poached Apple and Green Salad, Fire-roasted Duck with Porcini Sauce, side dishes.

Sept. 16—Around the World Breakfast 1 (all new)—American Breakfast of Steak and Cheese Omelet, Fluffy Pancakes and Delicious Blueberry Muffins, Mexican Breakfast of Huevos Rancheros, Breakfast Burrito and Mexican Style Churros, Easy French Breakfast of Stuffed Mini Croissants and Quiche.

For inquiries and reservations, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

Sept. 15 is deadline of food writing contest

THE DOREEN GAMBOA Fernandez Food Writing Award reminds contestants that the deadline is on Sept. 15. This year's contest has Filipino Food Specialists as its theme. Examples are your neighborhood bakery, the *sapin-sapin* maker you order from, the *sorbeteria*, the fruit carver.

All entries should be in essay format, in English, with not less than 4,500 characters and not more than 5,000 characters (800 words), printed on two short bond papers, double-spaced. This year, all entries are required to also include a digital file, either a Word (.doc) or a rich text file (.rtf) document saved to a floppy disk or CD. Use a pen name but submit a separate envelope containing your (1)

name, (2) pen name, (3) residential address and phone number, (4) cell-phone number, (5) e-mail address. Include your business address and phone number if you work. If enrolled, include school name, address and course/level.

All contestants can submit a maximum of two entries, each with a different pen name. Submit to Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award 2005, IWFS Manila Ladies Branch Awards Committee, Prism, 5/L, PDAF Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200. Send via special delivery to get a receipt. Hand-delivered entries will also be given receipts. No e-mailed entries will be accepted.

Call 8909666 or e-mail dgfawards@yahoo.com.ph

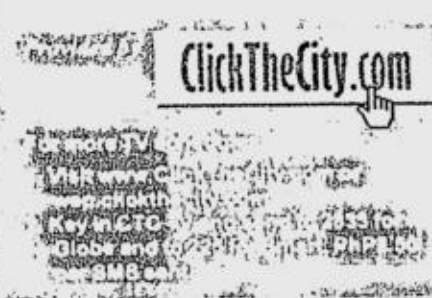


ALING Luz Ocampo of Bulacan is known for her table food artistry, including the bording, superbly carved dayup (lime) rondado which shows off her intricate designs when placed in jars with syrup.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE



BARON BOWED OUT, WHO'S NEXT?



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN																			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Teleserye	Pasyon de Amor	Ting ng Bayan (Live)	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opks	Molok Garden Season 2 Series	TV Patrol World	Mgs Ang Lahat Sa Iyan	Kungariang Kula	Ting ng Bayan (Live)	Play Big Brother	Green Rose	Maalaala Mo Kaya	Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championship	Star Trek	All For Love	24 Oras	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown	WWE Smackdown	Encantadia	Sugo	Triffo	Big News	Magsakalansan	ESPN Golf	Sakal
GMA 7	Kung Marshalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hostler	Shalimar King	Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars
IBC 13			EZ Shop		Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars
SBN 21			New Life TV Shop		Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars
Studio 23					Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars	Global Battle Of The Stars
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams	Dismissed	MTV Pop Inc	Bolton Points	Hanging Out At MTV	World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
CNN			Business International	Larry King Live	World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
ESPN			X-Games Preview/Race		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Sports Plus					World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Cinemax	Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines				World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Hallmark Channel	Switched	Strong Medicine			World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies			World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Discovery Channel	Hour Asia				World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
National Geographic	Magnum				World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Cartoon Network	Scoby-Doo Show				World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Nickelodeon	Blue Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fox	Mission Organization		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Star World					World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
AXN	CSI: Miami (Season 3)	CSI: NY (Season 1)			World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Bat The Geeks		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
ETC	GBB	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
HBO					World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Star Movies					World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
Cinema One					World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
EWTV	St. Francis: Doing Money in Our Souls	Council Of Fats	Fish Factory D	Image Of God		World 5	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes

Atang kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado

Dito lang sa

Since its opening in the early 1950s, Gaddi's continues to guard its reputation as the best European restaurant in China's special administrative region

WILD Salmon Confit with Minted Peas and Cucumber Butter Sauce

A Hong Kong legend comes to Manila

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

GADDI'S HAS LONG BEEN regarded one of the finest and most elegant restaurants in Hong Kong.

It was opened in the early 1950s and named after a former general manager of The Peninsula. Though Gaddi's reputation as Hong Kong's best European restaurant is now being challenged by several new establishments, it has managed to maintain the excellent service and French haute cuisine it is known for.

Its menu regularly changes to reflect the seasons in France and it uses only the highest-quality products from various countries.

Gaddi's wine cellar, with rare vintages, is also among the best and largest in Hong Kong.

Now Filipinos will get a chance to sample the unique dining experience Gaddi's offers without leaving the country.

The restaurant's classic dishes and its famous chef will be at the Old Manila of The Peninsula Manila on Sept. 10-17.

Chef David Goodridge will personally prepare Gaddi's signature dishes that have drawn praises from crowned heads, celebrities and heads of state.

The 29-year-old Goodridge says he brings to Gaddi's a combination of traditional and contemporary skills.

"I am not a classical French cook in that I don't like doing a lot of reductions. My style is clean, decisive and fresh, from both a taste and health perspective," says



MARINATED Goose Liver Confit with finely sliced Bresse Pigeon and Balsamic Jelly



CHEF David Goodridge prepares Gaddi's signature dish.

Goodridge, Gaddi's second British chef after a long line of French and Swiss culinary masters.

Goodridge picked up his culinary skills from one of the world's finest chefs, Raymond Blanc. He spent eight years at Blanc's Le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons, a Michelin two-star restaurant, in Oxfordshire, England. After leaving Le Manoir in 2002, he headed for Japan and worked in an entirely Japanese-staffed kitchen under the respected chef Koyama Hirohisa.

Goodridge pays detailed attention to taste, texture and presentation. He favors light, delicate but flavorsome foams rather than thick buttery sauces, using classical ingredients in exciting, innovative ways and turning simple fruits like lemon into a spectacular three-way dessert.

Degustation

A recent degustation at the Old Manila turned out to be a delightful treat for wine lovers and foodies. It was obvious Goodridge had so much fun cooking for the guests who were all too eager to try his creations.

Most of the ingredients he used were imported, such as fish from Scotland, berries from Australia and foie gras from France.

Guests were given a taste of everything and allowed to sample various wines, a different one for every dish.

Marinated goose liver confit with finely sliced Bresse pigeon and balsamic jelly was the first to grace the table. Goodridge's melt-



CHOCOLATE Tart with Fresh Berries



JERUSALEM Artichoke Royal with Scallops, Frog's Legs and Cep Mushroom Cappuccino



SLOW-COOKED Veal Loin with Braised Cabbage and Parmesan Gnocchi

in-your-mouth foie gras perked up everyone's palate. It was paired with a glass of 2001 Sauternes Baron Philippe, AC.

Next came the Jerusalem artichoke royal with scallops, frog's legs and cep mushroom cappuccino. Accompanying Goodridge's scallops was the 2002 Houghton GI Riesling.

The wild salmon confit with minted peas and cucumber butter sauce was then brought in. The cucumber froth made the dish look like a fusion piece but it was enticing, just like the wine that went with it—the 2002 Chablis, Louis Jadot A.C., a light and delicate red.

The veal highlighted the degustation. Slow-cooked, the veal loin with braised cabbage was tender and delicious, especially when paired with the 1998 Rioja Reserva, Bodegas Ramon Bilbao.

To cap the wonderful meal, Goodridge prepared chocolate tart with fresh berries, which was heavenly.

Those who will try Goodridge's culinary masterpieces will not only have a special dining experience to look forward to but will also have a chance to win round-trip business class tickets for two to Hong Kong courtesy of Cathay Pacific Airways and a three-night accommodation for two in a superior suite at the legendary Peninsula Hong Kong, including daily American breakfast in The Lobby and dinner for two in Felix during their stay.

And those who want to learn some of Goodridge's kitchen secrets can sign up for his Peninsula Academy cooking class, "Entertaining Gaddi's Style," 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Sept. 17. The P3,900 fee covers the cooking class, three-course lunch, Peninsula Academy apron and special gift. Call 8872888 loc. 2949 or 2205.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

International food promo

THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA presents "The Heritage Grand Buffet" until Sept. 30. Restaurant Riviera is featuring specialty dishes from the West and East for lunch and dinner at P960+. There's a wide selection of appetizers, soups and salads. For the health-conscious, Restaurant Riviera and Lobby Lounge are also featuring healthy options during the month. Call 8548888.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Deli Shop's cake of the month is Green Tea Cheesecake, available for the whole month of September and priced at P730 for a whole cake, P85 a slice. Blush, on the other hand, is the featured drink for

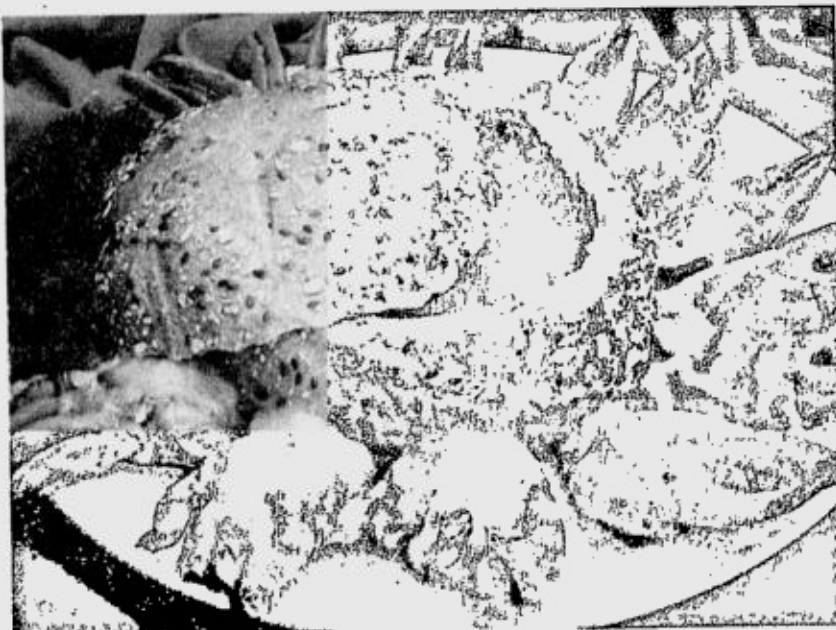
DINING OUT

September. It's a concoction of tequila, triple sec, sugar syrup and grenadine syrup. An order of this drink comes with a cuddly stuffed toy and priced at P400+. Available in all outlets.

HYATT Regency Manila's Mediterranean restaurant Café Al Fresco presents the best Mexican dishes and specialties from Guadalajara on Sept. 14-28. The dishes include Mexican Rice, Tomato and Cheese Ranchero, Fajitas, Refried Mexican Beans with Sausage, Lechon Fillet with Drunken Sauce and Assorted Appetizers with Fresh Mexican Guacamole. Call 8331234.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Palm Court Bar offers Beer in a Bucket promo. Have four ice cold beers for P200++ per person everyday, 5-9 p.m. Call 5283000.

THE SULO Hotel presents Maki-All-You-Can promo on Sept. 12-30. It features the following sets: Macho Set has Rainbow Maki, Tekka Maki and Kanibo Sarada Ma-



JADE Garden Cantonese Restaurant in Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati, marks its 25th year this month. The restaurant offers One Silver Dining set menu until Sept. 25. For P11,250+ (with a 25-percent discount from its original price of P15,000+), this set menu for 12 persons consists of the best signature dishes of the restaurant. Call 8922319/8124548.

ki; Take Set has Kappa Maki, California Maki and Ebi Sarada Maki; Oume Maki has Futo Maki, Unagi Maki and Takuan Maki. These are available 6-10 p.m., Monday to Friday, at Sushi Bar. Call 9245051 to 71.

PEKING Garden in Ayala Center Makati celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival this month with Hong Kong's most famous mooncakes. These come in three flavors: low sugar (six pieces with single egg yolk), lotus paste (four pieces with double egg yolks) and white lotus paste (four pieces with double egg yolks). Call 8179066/8179067.

LUK YUEN reopens its SM Megamall B outlet with a more cozy ambience and better dishes. The menu features congee, noodles, dumplings, dimsum, Hot and Sour Soup, Boneless Chicken in Lemon Sauce, Sweet and Sour Pork, Sliced Beef with Broccoli, Beef with Kangkong and Bagoong, Fish Fillet in Tausi Sauce and Shrimps with Cashew Nuts and Green Peas. For Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, the restaurant offers mooncakes. Luk Yuen has outlets in Glorietta 2, Makati; Paseo de Magallanes; Greenhills Shopping Center; Cash and Carry, Makati; and Alabang Town Center.



CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT

455 P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila

Tel. Nos. 725-5089 / 726-9326

www.cafey Isabel.com

Email: cafey Isabel@mydestiny.net

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

September 13, Tuesday - **TWIST TO BASIC BAKING**. Simple and easy to learn recipes will be demonstrated by Pastry Chef Hannah Herrera. The recipes are Cream-Cheese Cookies, Hi-Fibre Cookies, Choco-Coffee Cookies, Banana Cream Pie and Apple Pie. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

September 24, Saturday - **CHEESECAKES: WITH A DIFFERENCE**. Chef & Food Columnist Adoree Chang Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes. Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 28, Wednesday - **GOURMET BREADS**. This time Chef Junjun teaches you breads that the whole family will surely enjoy. The recipes are Whole Wheat Bread, Dinner Rolls, Three Herb Bread, Broche Loaf and Christmas Bread for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10 - 4 PM. NEW CLASS

COOKING CLASSES

September 03, Saturday - **GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN**. Chef Gene prepares an array of Holiday gifts your friends will appreciate and that are easy to prepare in the shortest possible time. Classic favorites such as Vello de Lomo, Goumet Tuyo, Grilled White Cheese, Acornus Almonds, Dulong in Olive Oil, Mufletta and many more. P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients

September 06, Tuesday - **GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 1**. Seafood in Saffron Cream & Proscuitto, Scud Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roast and many more are the recipes that Chef Gene will teach us. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 07, Wednesday - **EVERYBODY LOVES CHICKEN 2**. The second time around for Chef Junjun this time sharing his old homestyle chicken dishes. Chicken Adobo with Kamal, Spanish Chicken Rice, Chicken in Seven-up, Saucisson, Italian Chicken Steak and Chicken Liver Pate for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 08, Thursday - **PATE, MOUSSES AND SPREADS**. Recipes from Chef Junjun that can be used as a gift for the coming holidays, the recipes are Prosciutto's Chicken Liver Pate, Tomato Spread, Crab and Artichoke Spread, Quasong Puti Pamarut, Baked Eggplant with 2 Cheeses and Laura's Smoked Fish Spread and for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients

September 09, Friday - **A TASTE OF VIETNAM 1**. Learn delicious Vietnamese Cuisine from Nga Nguyen de Lemos, owner of Vietnamese Food House. Recipes include Pho Bo (Beef Noodle Soup), Goi Cuon (Fresh Springrolls with Shrimp and Pork), Pho Bo Chao (Fried Rice Stick noodles with Squid and Shrimps), Cha Ca Thang Long (Grilled Fish with Dill), Goi Rau Muong Thai Bo (Swamp Cabbage with Sautéed Beef Salad) and Cha Bap (Sweet Corn with Coconut Milk) for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 12, Monday - **MODERN AND EASY PASTA SAUCES 3**. Great and new sauces from Chef Junjun for everyone to enjoy. For cafe owners, bobbyists and wives that includes Tomato and Sausage, Italian Meatballs, Pink Sauce, Ham and Tomato Cream, Roasted Vegetables in Olive Oil and Smoked Tangque with Cream Cheese from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. for P1,200.00 including all ingredients

September 14, Wednesday - **HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1**. Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Putanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Tolerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,200.00 including ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 16, Friday - **EXQUISITE CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS 1**. Apple and Mango Chutney, Barbecue Sauce, Green Goddess Dressing, Oil Sauce, Raspberry Butter, Zucchini Bread, Gnsini (Breadsticks) and Cafe de Pans Sauce are the recipes from Chef Junjun that you can use in time for the holidays. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 17, Saturday - **HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 2**. Once again Chef Gino will teach another set of bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas giveaways. Recipes include Violet Crumble, Boursin, Butter Caramel Sauce, Homemade Whole Grain Mustard, Nougat, Dried Tomatoes in Oil and Cheese Log for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 18, Sunday - **THE ART OF FRIED AND APPETIZER, JAPANESE STYLE**. Easy to follow recipe from Chef Richi Aoki that you can serve to your friends and family. The recipes are Tempura Ebi, Morawase, Tempura Kakage, Agodashi Tofu and Gyoza Yatsu Itamae for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 19, Monday - **NOCHE BUENA FEAST**. Chef Gino will teach you tasty and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena and other special occasions. Recipes include Lengua con Cebollas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,500.00 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients

September 22, Thursday - **GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 2**. With Chorizo and Roasted Garlic Cream, Chorizo and Shrimp in Saffron Cream, Duck Farfalle with Dried Currants, Salmon Lasagna with Saffron Sauce and Linguine alla Vongole Salsa Bianca. P1,200.00 with all the ingredients included from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

September 23, Friday - **SUNDAY DISHES**. Delicious hearty and family meals is what Chef Gene offers such as Lengua Sulpeña, Pescado con Mayonesa, Calfos, Roast Chicken with Apples and White Sausage Stuffed with Caramelized Onion Sauce, Baked Loaves with Gruyere and Sopa de Fain for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. including all ingredients

September 27, Tuesday - **PAELLAS N° RISOTTOS 2**. Paella de Mariscos, Paella Primavera, Paella de Fideos, Seafood Jambalaya and Risotto alla Milanese are the recipes that Chef Gene will share with us. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 28, Thursday - **THAI FAVORITES 1**. Bangkok Chef Chanaya Thakpui will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Pad Thai, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

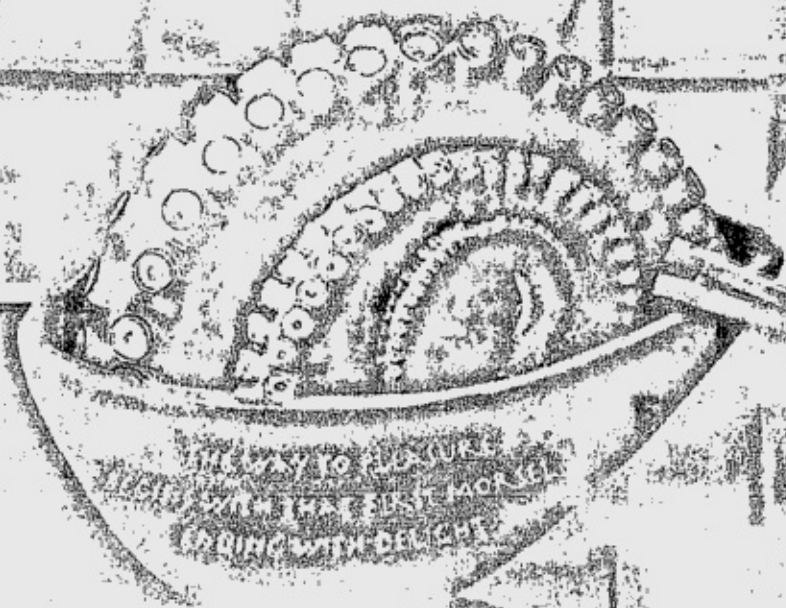
September 30, Friday - **THAI FAVORITES 2**. Another set of recipes from Chef Chanaya Thakpui that you will all enjoy like Yam Pla Meuk (Squid Salad), Po Pia Kung (Shrimp Spring Roll), Pla Neung Manao (Steamed Fish with Mango and Pineapple), Khao Pad Saparak (Pineapple Fried Rice), Panang Gai (Chicken Diced Curry) and Fried Banana Ice Cream for only P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

October 03, Monday - **HOLIDAY TURKEY TREAT**. Impress your friends with a complete Turkey dinner for the coming Holiday season. Recipes include 4 kinds of Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, Corn Bread, Split Pea Soup, Old Fashioned Fruit Salad and Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Campfire Crust. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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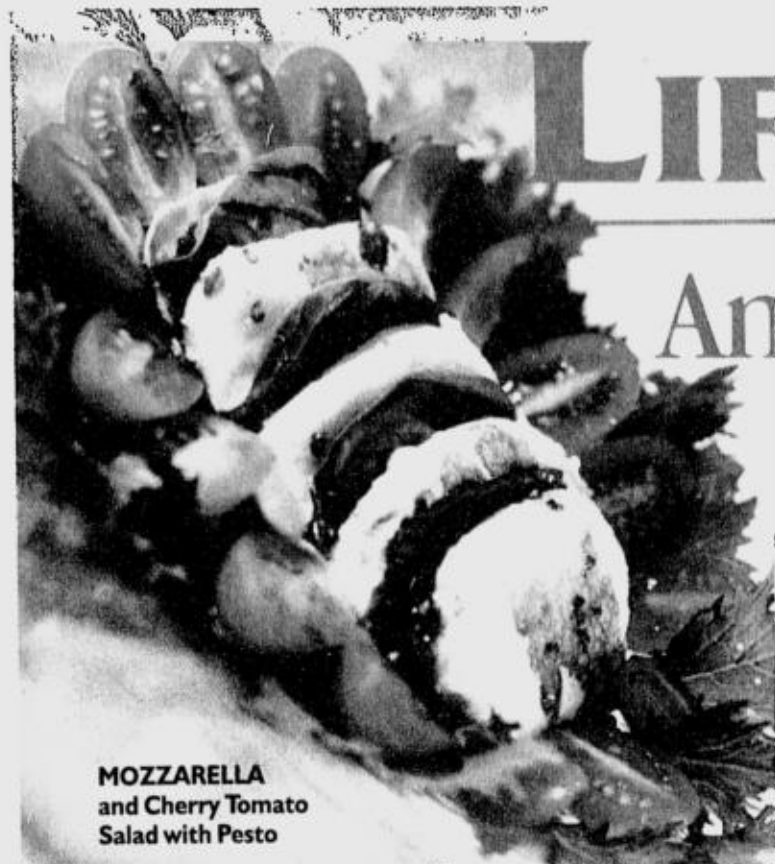
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LIFESTYLE

An 'Oriental village' opens in Cubao

MOZZARELLA
and Cherry Tomato
Salad with Pesto

MO Café
and Deli is
Mandarin
Oriental's
first
restaurant
outside
the hotel

By Belle V. Bondoc

THE NEW MANDARIN ORIENTAL CAFÉ and Deli, the latest addition to Gateway Mall's restaurants, is just the right place for those looking to dine in something other than a fast-food joint or a bar.

Classy but not formal, the MO Café and Deli carries Mandarin Oriental's trademarks—warm hospitality, good food and perfect ambience. Seated in the café facing the atrium, you almost forget you're in a mall.

"This is the first time that the hotel [is] operating a restaurant outside the hotel grounds," says Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental Manila's general manager.

The 67-seat café caters to people from the north side of Metro Manila, specially those who live close to the mall, and the Quezon City office crowd. It is suitable for family dinners yet cozy enough for romantic dates and private meetings.

Chinese provincial

Fine furniture and well-placed lighting lend

elegance to the restaurant. Architect-designer Sonia Santiago-Olivares created a classic Chinese provincial look using patterned tiles, stained wood panels and grass reed window shade. As Gaisberger puts it, the decor gives you the feel of being in an Oriental village.

Olivares used dark wood and earth tones, shades of yellows and terracottas that fade into beiges, with highlights of black, purple, aubergine and cobalt. The scored concrete floor has a nice texture. Equally impressive are the tabletop pieces and wall decorations. Interesting hanging lamps, in a way, take the place of works of art.

Almost half of the café space is given to a bakeshop-delicatessen displaying imported wines, meats, cheeses and other deli products, as well as an impressive selection of baked goodies. The bakeshop-deli is actually the first thing one notices when one is walking by, and the sight of sinful chocolate cakes and freshly baked breads is quite hard to resist. Deli items for take-home are packed in special gift boxes.

Adjacent to the MO Café is the Oasis, set in a circular atrium with lush greenery and ponds. The place is perfect for those who want to dine

al fresco under the stars. Oasis (tel. 9135505), also owned and operated by Mandarin Oriental, is an ideal venue for private functions. Nightly live entertainment completes the dining experience.

Not just cold cuts

Though the Mandarin Oriental is popular for its cold cuts and chocolates, the new outlet offers so much more, according to Gaisberger.

"We offer [the best] Asian fusion," he says. "We've created some twists in your favorite Filipino dishes. Every local dish will be unique, especially in the way it will be served to customers. *Kesong puti*, for instance, will be presented on top of a pastry instead of a *pan de sal* or say, the favorite *bibingka* will be partnered with smoked salmon," he adds.

The menu consists of creamy soups, fresh salads, a selection of Asian rice and noodle dishes.

The salad selection includes Thai Beef Salad, a meal in itself with several pieces of beef and mixed vegetables; Sausage and Cheese Salad with cornichons, Potato Salad with Bacon and Cajun Fried Chicken, Mozzarella and Cherry Tomato Salad with Pesto, Farfalle Pasta Salad



MO CAFÉ and Deli's cozy interiors

with Shrimp, traditional Caesar Salad, Oriental Grilled Chicken Salad with Bean Sprouts in Soy Sesame Vinaigrette and Nicoise Salad.

Gourmet sandwiches are Tikka-marinated Chicken with Onion Mustard Chutney and Yogurt Cucumber Dip, Smoked Salmon and Crab Meat on Dill Sauce, Grilled Vegetables with Feta Cheese on Rye Bread and the traditional Club Sandwich, among others.

Rice dishes include Hainanese Chicken Rice, Nasi Goreng and Fried Boneless Bangus served with garlic rice. Among the noodle items are Vietnamese Chicken Noodle Soup in Lemon-grass-flavored Broth, Udon Noodle Soup with Japanese Fish Cake, Barbecue Duck Noodle Soup, and Prawn and Pork with Pak Choi.

Popular Filipino *merienda* dishes available are homemade *kesong puti*, *puto bumbong*, *bibingka* and the all-time favorite *ginataang halo-halo*.

The café also offers specialty coffees and teas and other healthy drinks.

Despite the classy ambience, prices are cheaper than in the hotel. Diners won't have to shell out their entire paycheck for a hearty lunch or dinner.

Mandarin Café and Deli is at the Upper Ground Level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao. Ample parking space is available in Gateway's 600-car covered parking.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph



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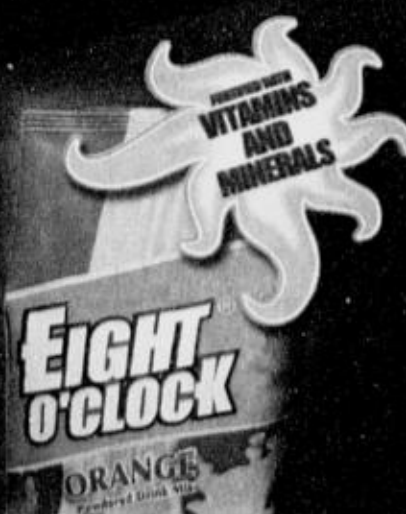
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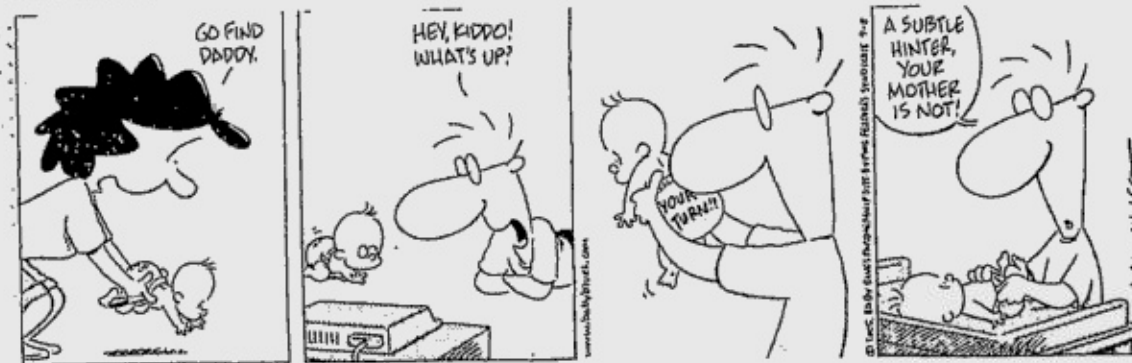


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're serious about your career and about practically everything you do. The word "casual" is not in your vocabulary. You have an intense, dynamic energy. You're not afraid to appear eccentric. You express your wishes boldly. You're a natural leader, in the arts or in business. The year ahead is social and friendly and promotes all partnerships.

Birthdate of: Pink, singer; David Arquette, actor; Peter Sellers, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Power outages, computer crashes and technological glitches might be a problem at work today. Expect the unexpected; that's about all you can do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Take precautions against accidents at home today. Look around you and see what could go wrong. Move slowly; most accidents are related to haste and distraction. Double-check electricity and fire hazards.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Watch your money today. You might lose some; you might find some. Impulse buying is likely. (Save your receipts.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A real character crosses your path today. This person is either bizarre or unusual, or is perhaps someone from a very different background from yours. (You might learn something.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because you don't agree with someone's political or religious views, some kind of outburst might take place today. This could be on your part or the part of somebody else. Be patient.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Unexpected tension between you and others is likely today. A partner or close friend will probably surprise you in some way. Before you react, count to five.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Hiccups related to your job are likely. They might be computer-related or caused by staff shortages. Items that are lost and new technology that is bewildering are also possibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel strong today because the Moon is in your sign. Nevertheless, expect a few surprises from a group, club or organization. In a way, it's not really a surprise. (You saw this coming.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't tangle with bosses, parents, teachers or authority figures. It won't be pleasant. If you're caught off-guard by something, just act calm and cool.

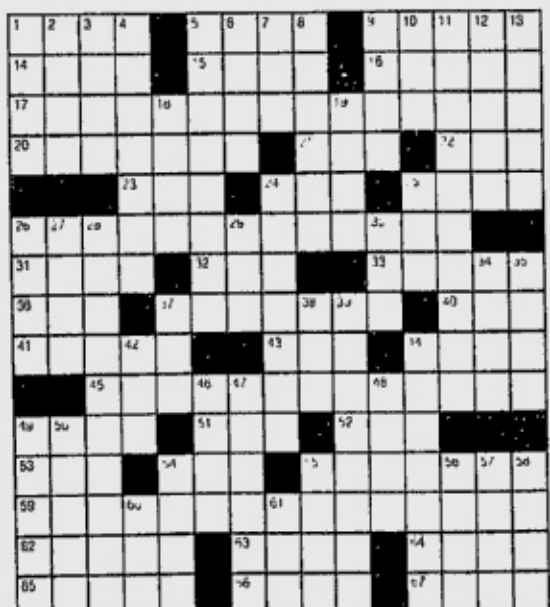
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Surprise news from another country or distant place is likely. This could trigger changes that affect your daily routine. One thing is certain: You'll learn something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Something that you counted on from others might suddenly be withheld or removed in some way. This won't please you. Make sure you get all the facts before you respond.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Different temperaments could trigger arguments between you and close friends and partners today. Your best bet is to be patient. Whatever comes at you today will quite likely be a curveball.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Singer Redding
 - Excursion
 - Ham it up
 - Move in eddies
 - Israeli dance
 - Central parts of churches
 - Start of a quip
 - Clothes holders
 - Corp. & officers
 - AAA advice
 - PC key
 - Med. printout
 - Extended family
 - Part 2 of quip
 - Golfing Jay
 - Printer's measures
 - "Ode on a Grecian Urn" poet
 - The better part of an hour?
 - Refuses to yield
 - Morning moisture
 - Illinois city near St. Louis
 - Comic Delaria
 - Actress Gilpin
 - Part 3 of quip
 - Kind of crazy?
 - Werner Braun
 - One of Ted's stations
 - Poetic contraction
 - Stripling
 - Raided the fridge
 - End of quip
 - Map in a map
 - Cenozoic and Paleozoic
 - On the loss windy side
 - Plus
 - June honorees
 - Act as banker
- DOWN**
- Colorful fish
 - Base-pitch instrument
 - Fe
 - Catchphrases
 - Baker's dozen
 - Flag fabricator
 - One Gershwin
 - Chalklike crayon
 - Env. insertions
 - Buddy
 - Too full
 - Kernel's coat
 - German city
 - Common seaweed
 - Craving
 - Greek letter
 - Ernesto Guevara
 - Hold your horse!
 - Transport by truck
 - Coarse trail
 - Switch positions
 - 7-day spans
 - Actress Garr
 - "M*A*S*H" co-star
 - Itemized bill; abbr.
 - Congee
 - Pungency
 - Rower's need
 - Of Easter or Passover
 - Bayh or Hunter
 - Greated slither
 - Memorabilia marker
 - Old photo color
 - Gulls' cousins
 - Latvian
 - Clupeid fish
 - Curly cabbage
 - Tied
 - Instrument of conveyance
 - Driving gadget
 - La-la intro



By Alan P. Olschewski
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

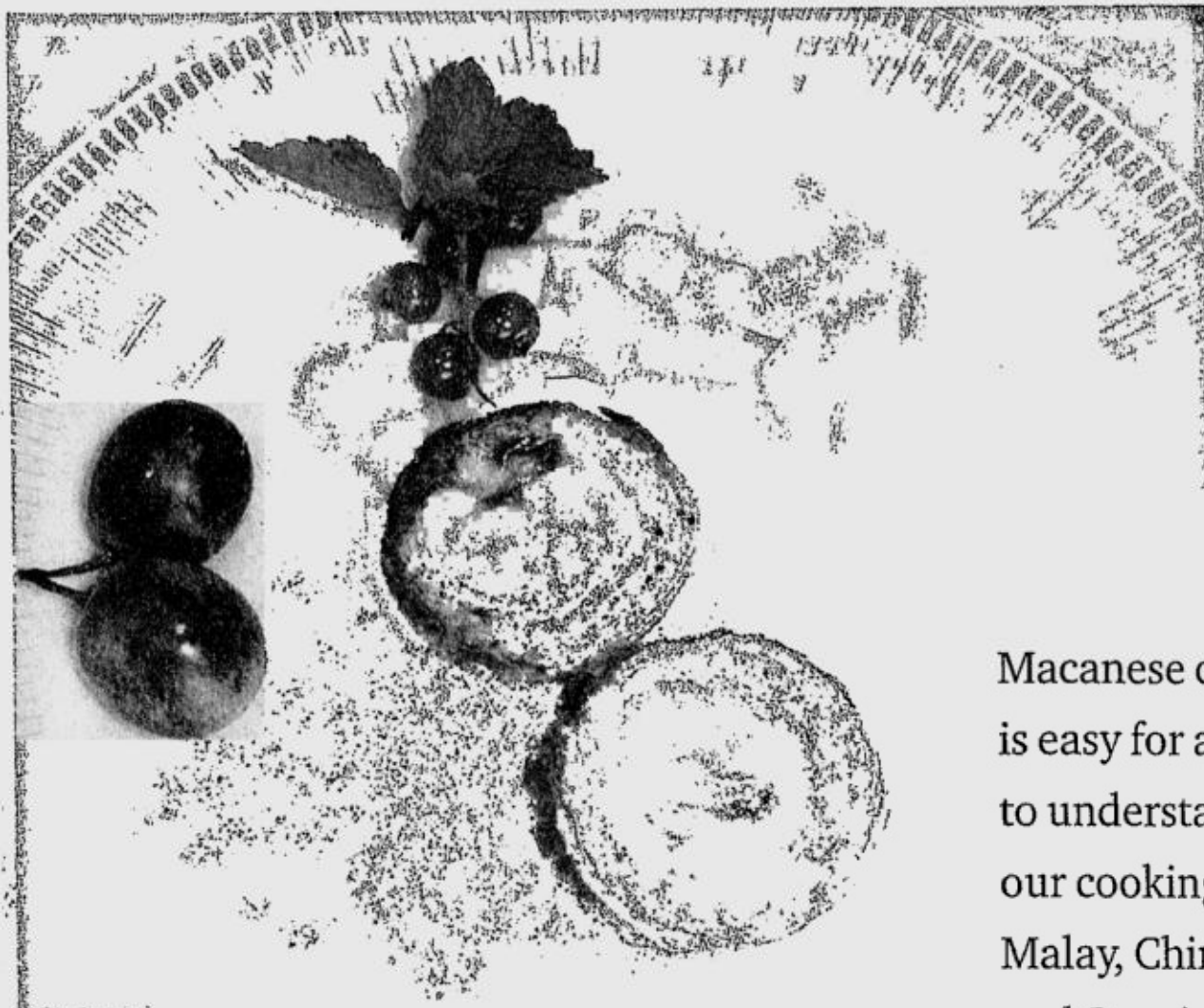
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





EGG tarts or pasteis de nata



THE LACASSÁ takes after the Malaysian laksas

Macanese cooking is easy for a Filipino to understand because our cooking has fused Malay, Chinese and Spanish as well



THE SALAD of pig's ear is a true fusion of Chinese and Portuguese.

Macau's melting pot

Text and photos by Michaela Fenix
Contributor

IT WASN'T MY FIRST TIME TO TASTE the cooking of Macau, now a special autonomous region of the Republic of China but historically a Portuguese colony for over 400 years.

But my first glance at the menu card for a tasting of Macanese cuisine at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel made me excited. At last, I was going to taste the dishes I'd longed for, *caldo verde* and African chicken. Could you believe I've been through three Portuguese food festivals and had never tasted *caldo verde*, perhaps the dish that is so identified with the cooking of Portugal?

Caldo verde is literally green soup mainly because it's made of sliced kale, a variety of cabbage, and thickened with potatoes. It's a hearty, creamy soup and, this day when the sky was threatening to unleash heavy rain, it was a comforting dish.

In Portugal, sliced kale is available in markets so making *caldo verde* at home already dispenses with the first step in the recipe procedure. Later, visiting chef Wong Yuk Shan (David) told lunch guests that *caldo verde* was also the dish most identified with Macanese cuisine.

African chicken or *galinha a cafre* was the other dish I awaited after tasting it eons ago at an African food festival. It uses the chili mix called *piri piri* from Mozambique, a Portuguese outpost; turmeric from Goa, a Portuguese colony before being transferred to India; and coconut milk, a Malay influence. It looks very much like the Ilonggo chicken *inasal* with the chili quite tempered and the coconut milk very pronounced.

Fusion

Many of those who have written about Macanese cuisine agree on one description—fusion. While that has become an undesirable culinary word, the fusing of cuisine did happen in all countries that have interacted with other countries either through trade or colonization.



CHEF David of the Instituto de Formação Turística explains the Macanese dishes to guests.

Even the limited interaction with foreigners in Japan has produced the tempura with flour brought in by, yes, the Portuguese. Apart from Goa and Mozambique, Macau cuisine also includes dishes from another former Portuguese colony, Brazil, such as the *feijoada*, pork trotter with red bean stew.

Portuguese influence is also in the *bacalhau*, shredded dried codfish made into patties we know as the Spanish *croquetas*. And, of course, it is in the famous *pasteis de nata* or egg tart as we call it here. The crust is flakier than that of the commercial version of Lord Stowe's.

Our Macau lunch was completed by a Portuguese white wine that was light and cool and complemented the food. The only distributor in the country is Ralph's Wines and Spirits.

Familiar

The cooking of Macau is easy for a Filipino to understand because our cooking has fused

AFRICAN chicken uses the *piri piri*, a chili mix from Mozambique.THE GREEN soup, *caldo verde*, of both Portugal and Macau

Malay, Chinese and Spanish as well. Some Macanese dishes are similar to our cooking such as the pig's ear salad, our first dish that day, pig's ear cut into thin slices then flavored with olive oil and coriander (*wansuey*). We joked that it was *tokwa't baboy* without the *tokwa*, ours more Chinese with the addition of soy sauce.

One of the recipes given was for stewed duck with blood vinegar sauce (*pato de cabidela*) that read like *dinuguan*.

But perhaps it is the *balichão* (pronounced *bali-chung*) that makes Macau very Southeast Asian as well. It's their shrimp paste, like our *bagoong alamang*, except that it's more like a sauce than a paste. The old way was to cook it from scratch using shrimp, salt, bay leaves, chili, lemon, peppercorns and rice wine. *Balichão* flavors dishes like the *feijoada*, their fried rice and the *lacassá*, a noodle dish similar to the Malay *laksas*. The shrimp sauce must give those a decidedly Macau touch.

That, however, was not on the list of what was hand-carried by the chefs for this festival. Only the *bacalao* and the *chorizos* (sausages) were included.

Chef David with two other chefs, Wong Man Su and Chon Kin Kei, have been cooking the Macau dishes for the festival buffet which ends today. They are instructors at the Macau hotel and tourism training school (Instituto de Formação Turística) that aims, among other things, to preserve Macanese cooking through lessons, serving the dishes in a buffet dinner every Friday in the restaurant run by students.

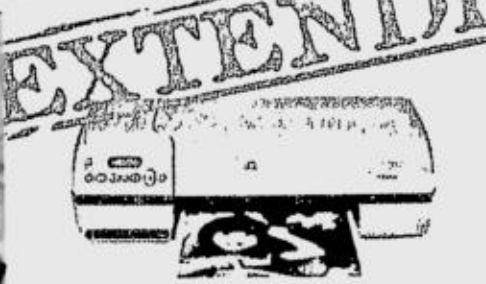
Macau understands only too well that food is very much a part of culture and preserving it by cooking will mean that Macanese cuisine will not end up as just a memory, like the Ruins of St. Paul where only the façade and stone steps remain of the church it once was.

Tasting Macau ends today at the Garden Café, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 6338888.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com.

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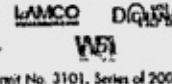
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For DIBK Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

You might be cooking a winner

THE FAMILY recipes that you're turning in to favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School

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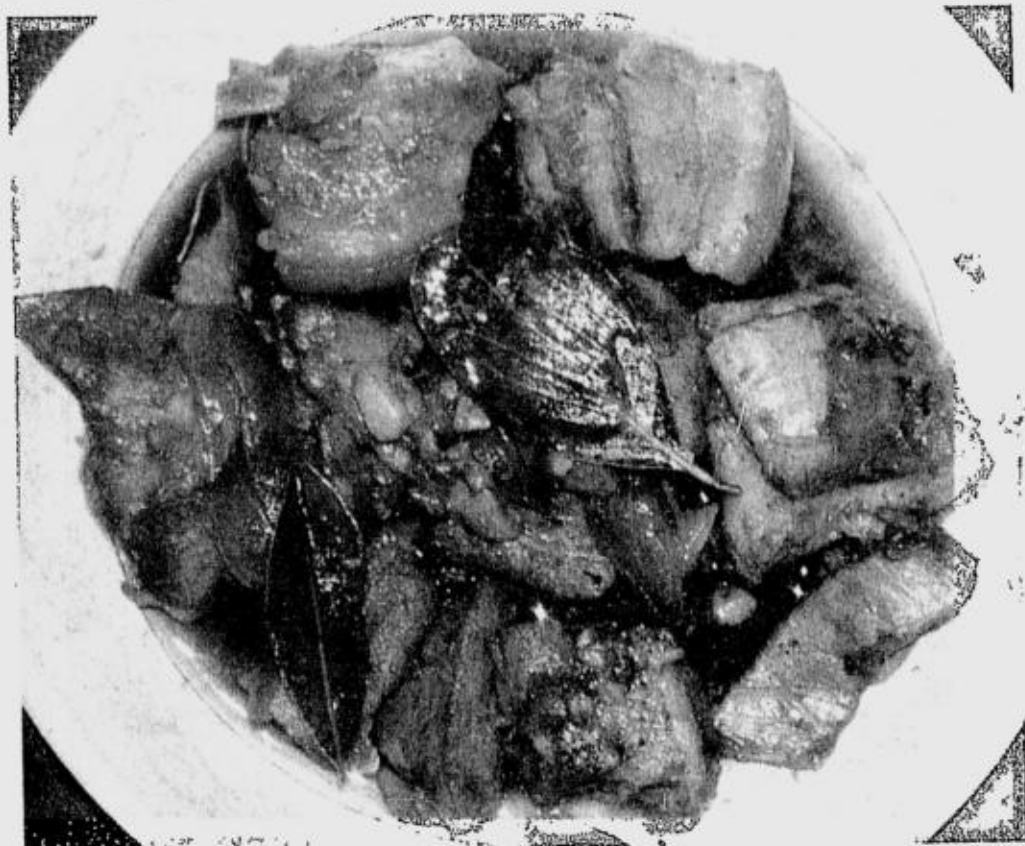
Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to recipes@inquirer.com.ph. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Love that Adobo!

By Carla Marie Kathrina G. Palileo

THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, LOCATED some 55 kms south of Manila, is famous not only for its beach resorts and tourist attractions but for being home to the *balisong* (fan knife) and *kapeng barako* (coffee) as well. It is a province rich in both natural resources and traditions. Among these



traditions is this impressive dish I want to share.

Since the time I got acquainted with it when I was 5, my taste buds have craved for it. I look for it on the dining table of every family gathering I attend. The dish originated from Brgy. San Luis, Sto. Tomas, Batangas and has been christened Adobong Batangas.

You might think it is the usual home-made *adobo* that has been a part of the Filipino food but something is spectacular about the dish. I'm telling you that its mere aroma can send you scampering to the dining table even if it isn't mealtime yet.

It was my maternal grandfather who introduced me to this dish, rather who introduced this dish to me. Since then, it has been a staple every time there is a family reunion. Whatever occasion it is, Adobong Batangas is there. Perhaps the only time it's missing on the table is during *Semana Santa* but, hey, it's back on Easter Sunday!

Adobong Batangas is a dish we really love because it's easy to prepare, it is not expensive, it doesn't require artificial flavorings like *vetsin*, seasoning or broth cubes to become tasty, and it doesn't spoil easily. It also goes well with either bread or with rice.

My great grandmother is the source of this recipe. She cooked this dish for her five children for over half a century. No wonder my grandfather and his sisters have been regarded as experts in cooking this dish. My mother then learned how to cook it from my *lolo*. She cooks it so often at home that it got me interested. So here I am, 19 years old, the fourth generation recipient of this recipe. And do you think I will allow the passing on of this traditional recipe to stop? Of course not! I'm trying to master it so I can pass it on to my future kids so they may continue to savor it

Adobong Batangas

1/2 k *liempo*, cut into desired size (preferably cut into 2"x2")

1/4 c vinegar

2 tbsp soy sauce

3 c water

12 pcs of garlic, chopped

1 pc onion

1 tsp cracked peppercorns

2 pcs bayleaf

1 1/2 tbsp *achuete* seeds

In a separate container, pour 4 tbsp hot water over the *achuete* seeds. Set aside.

Wash the pork. In a bowl put together the pork, soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, cracked peppercorns and bayleaf. Mix thoroughly. Add water and pour in the *achuete* water (use strainer to separate *achuete* seeds). Mix again. Let the mixture stand for 15-20 minutes.

After 15-20 minutes, put the mixture in a saucepan and simmer. Add onion then continue cooking, adding water until the desired tenderness is achieved. Add salt to taste. Once the meat is tender, reduce heat and constantly stir. Wait until the broth/liquid thickens. Serve hot.

Editor's note: Winner may claim P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks from Hazel Soriaga of our Marketing Department, PDI office.



AYALA'S NEWEST EATING PLACE

Delifrance has opened a new outlet at Insular Life Building, Ayala Avenue corner Makati. Its biggest branch to date, the new Delifrance, offers clubhouse sandwiches, pizza baguettes, fresh green salads, pastries, soups, baked bread and brewed coffee.

Singapore

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can look forward to. Singapore will enjoy a continuous offering of exciting events and

opportunities to visit, retail, shop, Singapore shopping money and other great things

to quality. Singapore should be a place for Singapore from Manila or Pampanga between

September 1 to November 30, 2005

There should be a minimum of one night stay in Singapore

PLUS they get to win delightful "Ikam-Ikam" prizes!

The larger the group the longer the stay the more chances to win! So why not book your Singapore trip with your favorite travel agent now!

Upcoming Events

September

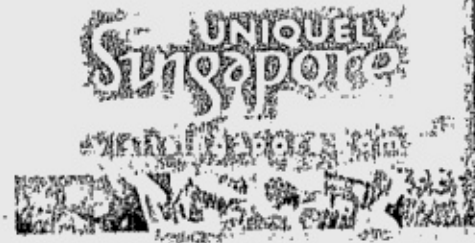
- 21-23 September 2005
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- 28-29 September 2005
- 30 September 2005
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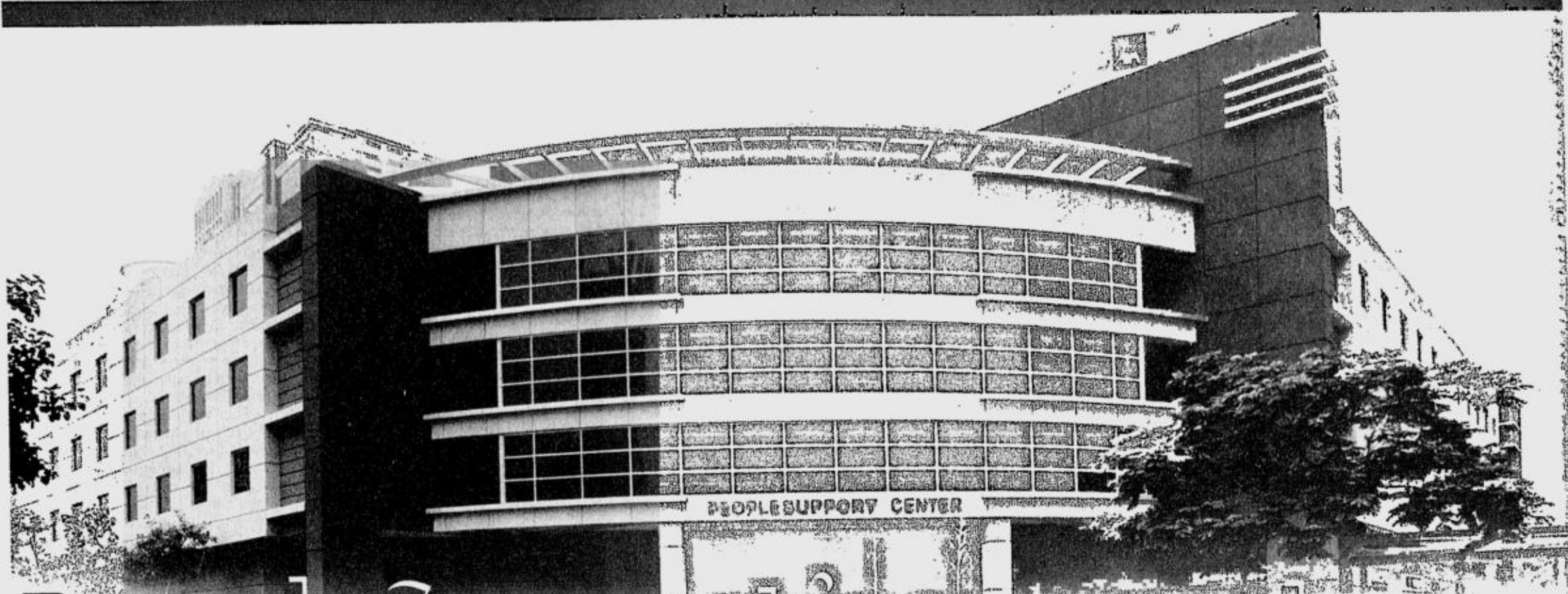
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PeopleSupport inaugurates regional headquarters

Editor Aries Espinosa

Graphics Design Alden Joshua Cedo

PeopleSupport Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

MANILA, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 - PeopleSupport, Inc. today celebrates the inauguration of the Philippine regional headquarters, the PeopleSupport Center.

The invited guests of honor for the occasion are Sen. Mar Roxas, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima. The management and staff of PeopleSupport, Inc., led by Bong Borja, president of PeopleSupport Philippines and vice president for strategic planning of PeopleSupport Inc., Rozi Ricafrente, vice president for human resources of PeopleSupport Inc., and Tim Miller, vice president of service delivery of

PeopleSupport Inc. will be there to welcome guests as they celebrate yet another milestone for PeopleSupport.

"This is truly a wonderful occasion for all of us at PeopleSupport," said Borja. "We are not only inaugurating our new dedicated world-class operations center but we are also celebrating five years of tremendous success here in the Philippines. This landmark center was completed ahead of schedule and with a seamless migration of our teams. We expect our new facility, with the most advanced contact center technology and design, to further improve the quality and reliability of our services to clients worldwide."

The three guests of honor will cut

the ceremonial ribbon and are scheduled to speak during the opening ceremonies. Borja will be giving the welcome remarks. There will be a special audio-visual presentation featuring significant events in PeopleSupport's past five years in the Philippines. This will be followed by a lion dance and a cocktail reception.

The PeopleSupport Center is located in Makati, the financial district of Manila. To date, more than 1,700 employees have transferred into the new center while continuing to service clients without interruption. This built-to-suit center with approximately 3,300 seats will eventually increase PeopleSupport's total

seat capacity in all current centers to over 5,000 workstations for operations, management and support staff in Manila and Cebu.

Equipped with new, top-of-the-line telephony and data infrastructure, the PeopleSupport Center offers world-class services to clients. The center offers a 24x7 network operations center, IT helpdesk and workforce management and has a highly secure and robust on-site data center with multiple redundancy for power.

With five levels, the PeopleSupport Center provides many employee facilities including stylish and modern break rooms on each floor, ergonomic workstations, a 24x7

clinic, employee gym, shower rooms and an employee lounge. The center is also home to PeopleSupport University, with numerous advanced training rooms. For the convenience of employees, several American-based restaurants and retail establishments have opened on the ground level of the PeopleSupport Center, some of which will offer round-the-clock services to support the center's 24x7 operations.

"We are optimistic that our operations in the Philippines will continue to grow and hopefully, we will be able to open more state-of-the-art operations centers in the coming years," said Borja.



Bong Borja, President of PeopleSupport Philippines

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PeopleSupport marks 5th year of RP operations with big gains

EMPLOYEE EMPOWERMENT: TWO SIMPLE words that either made or broke a lot of companies in the last decade. Managers opting to keep their employees happy, making them feel appreciated and valuable, and giving them the confidence and independence to succeed characterize "employee empowerment". Such a management belief, coupled with a robust service offering and financial stability is what made PeopleSupport the success it is today.

Launched in 2000, Los Angeles-based PeopleSupport opened shop in Makati with only 40 employees. As one of the first companies to provide offshore outsourcing operations from the Philippines, PeopleSupport became a pioneer in the call center and BPO business in the Philippines. Fortunately, clients started pouring in and the number of employees grew from a few dozen to close to 3,800 in just five years.

"We were so successful here that we decided to move all our operations from the US to the Philippines," recalls Bong Borja, president of PeopleSupport Philippines. In 2003, the company stepped onto Cebu soil, to further meet the demand of getting a high volume of new hires a week.

PeopleSupport further proved its success by becoming the first US offshore outsourcing company with operations solely in the Philippines to be listed on the NASDAQ National Market in October of 2004. Completely debt free, PeopleSupport's sales have quadrupled to \$44.5 million in 2004 since the company began operating in the Philippines in 2000. More recently, July 27, 2005, PeopleSupport reported record quarterly revenues of \$14.7 million for the second quarter of 2005.

As the company celebrates its fifth year in the Philippines, PeopleSupport looks at the many accomplishments it has reached recently and over the years. From an "operations" perspective, PeopleSupport raised its standards to become a "service delivery" organization - setting the company apart from the competition and ensuring utmost client satisfaction and communication. Such a transition resulted in contributing to EarthLink's winning the JD Power Award for Customer Service Excellence, Expedia's Best Customer Service Award in the travel industry, and a leading VOIP service provider to record high sales closes.

PeopleSupport employs close to 3,800 employees worldwide, doubling the size of the company and pushing the recruitment programs nationwide in the Philippines. The company also devel-

oped STC Solutions - a BPO service focused on collections - and now counts over 200 agents and several excellent US-based clients. All these developments were coupled with upgraded IT applications for call handling and documentation. In summary, PeopleSupport operates with this platform in mind - The right business at the right time with the right team.

What could be PeopleSupport's secret to achieving so much and so fast? First up, "Our management rocks," says LA-based sales director Paul Brzonkala. A strong combination of locals and U.S. expatriates with extensive offshore handling experience results in effective team selling, strong client management, and produces a sharp focus on target accounts.

As for eReps, PeopleSupport is the preferred employer for college graduates looking to enter the call center and BPO industry. Out of the 80,000 resumes PeopleSupport receives every quarter, the acceptance rate remains at less than 2 percent. More than once was a client quoted saying "Your agents can sell ice to Eskimos," emphasizing PeopleSupport's ability to up-sell and cross-sell additional products and services to our clients' end customers.

In knowing they have the best and brightest employees, PeopleSupport works hard to provide a career development environment - ranging from performance incentives, competitive compensation and benefits packages, and intensive training programs to fit the account requirements.

Take for example during the quarterly company meeting, employees celebrating their fifth year anniversary with PeopleSupport each received a special edition Kenneth Cole wrist watch. "PeopleSupport is a happy place to work at. You feel taken care of and the job security and personal growth is highly felt," says Amabelle Go, an employee from the lead generation team.

All of these advantages, complemented with state-of-the-art and robust IT infrastructure and excellent partnerships with financial and legal providers, guarantees a better year to look forward to than the last.

PEOPLESUPPORT/E3

PEOPLESUPPORT Cebu, eOffice 1,
AsiaTown IT Park, Apas, Cebu City



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PeopleSupport recruitment kiosks in Manila malls - An innovation by PeopleSupport**Easy job application while inside the mall**

DUE TO THE SURGE OF THE COMPANY'S hiring requirements, PeopleSupport created its highly innovative tool of bringing the application process closer to the people - the PeopleSupport Recruitment e-Station.

A first of its kind among call centers in the Philippines, the PeopleSupport recruitment kiosk enables easy access for jobseekers who, in less than five minutes, can finish the first step of the application process while inside the mall.

The kiosk welcomes you with interactive multimedia content showing the PeopleSupport environment and then leads to an application form that gets the primary details of the jobseeker. With the voice recording systems, PeopleSupport can de-

termine the speaking skills of the prospective applicant.

The kiosks are connected to PeopleSupport's recruitment database to streamline the processing of application forms and to prevent repeat applicants.

In Manila, the kiosks are located at Glorietta 2, Ground Floor Customer Service Area of Ayala Center Makati and at the fourth level of SM Megamall.

PeopleSupport, a leader in the contact center industry, is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. The company has employed close to 3,800 employees in its offices in Manila and Cebu and is rapidly growing with the opening of the PeopleSupport Center in Makati, the first-ever e-services facility in the country.

**PeopleSupport marks 5th year of RP operations with big gains**

From page E2

Going public on the NASDAQ National Market in 2004 highlights PeopleSupport's credibility and financial stability. Highly experienced management and sales team has its eyes focused on making PeopleSupport the #1 outsourcing partner to virtually every client and expand offered services to back office processing.

Last but not the least, PeopleSupport

has completed migration to the new PeopleSupport Center, a five-story building at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Senator Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City. "It is the first dedicated e-services facility, designed to run 24 x 7 with multiple back-up power, and multiple telephone companies coming in," says Bong Borja. PeopleSupport is also looking at expanding to other locations, possibly in the Philip-

pines and in additional countries.

It would be an understatement to say that PeopleSupport is one of the companies to watch out for in our time. PeopleSupport's formula of providing unmatched service to its clients and continuous development for its employees, its financial strength and stability, aggressiveness and vision, make it a real cut above the rest.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to congratulate the management and staff of PeopleSupport on their 5th anniversary of successful operation and the opening of the new PeopleSupport Center

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Regional Headquarters - PeopleSupport Center, Makati City
Other Offices - 29 to 33rd Robinsons Summit Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City
Cebu Office - eOffice 1, AsiaTown IT Park, Apas, Cebu City

RECRUITMENT DETAILS

PeopleSupport is constantly in search of bright, highly-driven and talented young professionals to join the leading company in the country's fastest growing industry.

We are looking for future business leaders who are excited about building a great company and becoming key contributors to the fast-growing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.

We at PeopleSupport are equally interested in your skills and experience as we are in your values, goals and interests. We want people who can bring to the workplace the passion that drives them to excel.

We are looking for eReps

eReps are the dynamic and highly driven customer service representatives of PeopleSupport. These bright and energetic professionals work the phones with enthusiasm and accuracy, going beyond satisfying customer queries and concerns.

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Computer and Internet Proficiency
Strong Customer Service/Sales Skills
Problem Solving and Analytical Skills
College Education
Willingness to work shifts

How to Apply

Apply Online:

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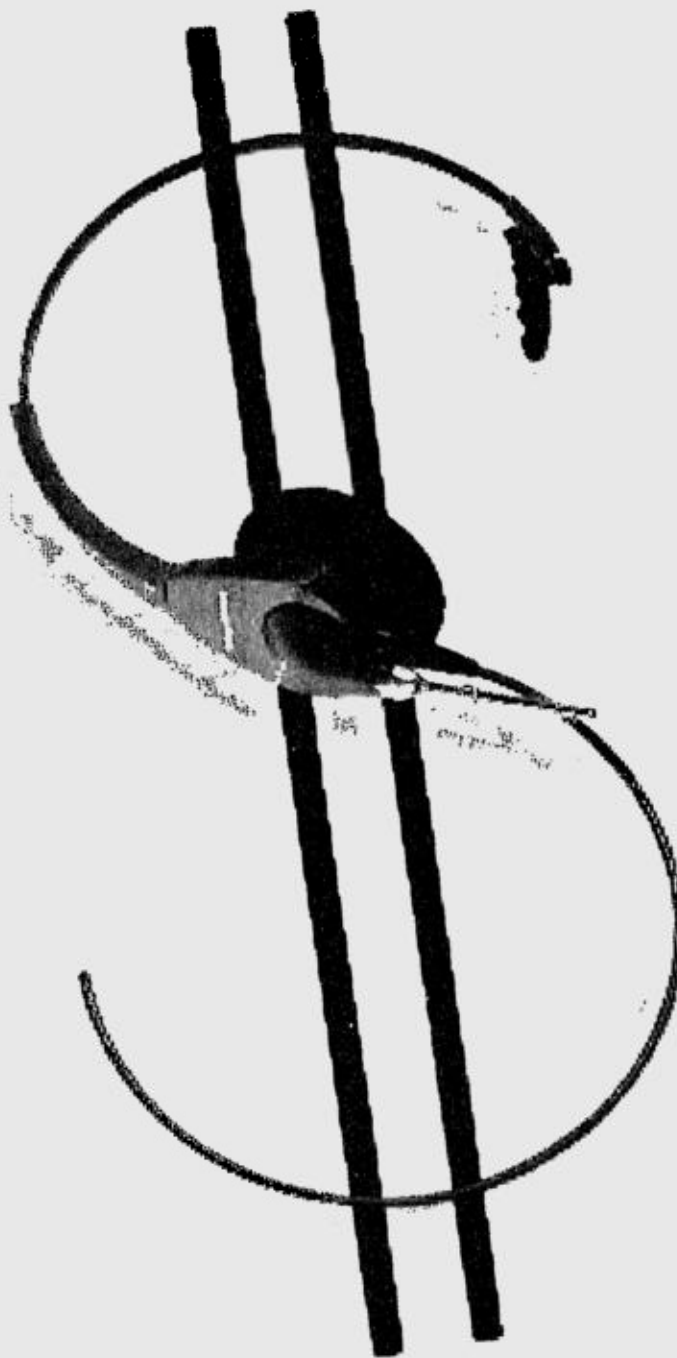
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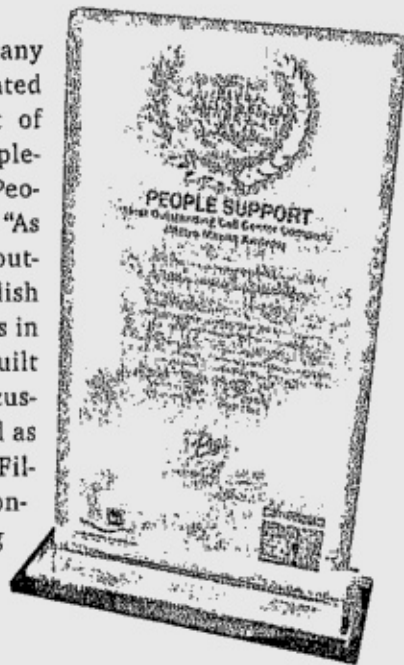
PeopleSupport gains recognition as Most Outstanding Call Center

PEOPLESUPPORT (PHILIPPINES) INC. WAS awarded the prestigious 2004 Philippine Marketing Excellence Award as the Most Outstanding Call Center Company in the Philippines (Metro Manila). The award ceremony took place at the Westin Philippine Plaza on July 20, 2005.

The Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute, the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and Sales & Marketing Magazine jointly recognized PeopleSupport with the award for building a strong brand presence in the Philippines and creating market awareness of the BPO industry among Filipinos by using innovative and "best marketing practices" to reach potential employees nationwide.

"PeopleSupport is proud to be recog-

nized as a leading BPO company in the Philippines," commented Bong Borja, vice president of global operations for PeopleSupport and president of PeopleSupport (Philippines). "As one of the first offshore outsourcing companies to establish a presence in the Philippines in 2000, PeopleSupport has built an excellent reputation for customer service for clients and as an employer of choice for Filipino employees. We are honored to have our marketing efforts and programs recognized in the Philippines."



- We offer an attractive compensation and benefits package including stock options, premium healthcare and performance incentives, where employees know that hard work is recognized and rewarded.
- We have career advancement opportunities that help employees pursue their long-term professional goals.
- Our professional development training conducted by the PeopleSupport University is geared towards the continuous improvement of our people, increasing their marketability and fulfillment.
- We invest in state-of-the-art technology, facilities and equipment to maintain a highly efficient workforce.
- Employee interest and welfare are very important to the company. We recognize the big role our people play in our growth and we reward them with first-rate employee programs and services.
- We are a financially stable company, as proven by our steady annual growth, and our employees enjoy the benefits of being with one of the key players in the industry.
- Open-door policy, friendly management team, casual atmosphere, and fun work environment are just some of the things that spell out our unparalleled company culture.

www.peoplesupport.com

eRep and Corporate Positions available.
For recruitment information, please see Page E3

Globe

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congratulates

People Support

in celebrating their

5th Anniversary

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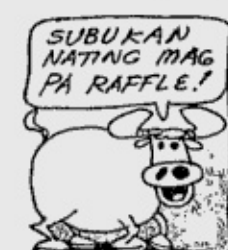
Quotable quotes of 'Desperadas' from Wisteria Lane

Tear gas use in rally dispersal not intentional, say Manila police

Issue of hero's burial for Marcos back from the dead

What it takes to be the next supermodel: Check out final 10 to find out

Wanted: A surprise, new form of people power



By Volt Contreras
WANTED: A NEW FORM of people power tailor-made to bring down the Arroyo administration. Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" WANTED/ A22



Fil-Ams to hound GMA in streets of New York

By Volt Contreras and Luige A. del Puerto
NOT EVEN IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK will President Macapagal-Arroyo get a brief respite from protesters demanding her resignation. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday. FIL-AMS/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, September 9, 2005 ★★ 74 pages / 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 273

P18

website: www.inq7.net

Hands off, bishops told

Miriam tells CBCP not to meddle in politics

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

THE ROLE OF THE Church is to guide the morality of its flock, not to meddle in politics, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago warned yesterday.

Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo's, said the Church or its officials should be circumspect in their statements and heed the papal injunction: "I think that the CBCP (Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) or even the individual bishops should now consider what is the implication of Pope Benedict's advocacy that the Church should keep itself insulated from domestic politics."

The senator made her remarks a day after ranking members of the CBCP, including its incoming president, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, said the dismissal of the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo did not signal the end of the political crisis and of the people's "search for truth."

Santiago warned that the Church might be tempted to call on the people to show "disrespect" for the House vote amid allegations that pro-Arroyo law-



BISHOPS VS BISHOPS. Archbishop Oscar Cruz slams prelates who accept Pagcor doleouts as outgoing CBCP president Fernando Capalla (2nd from left) has admitted. Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago (right) takes to task the strong language used by incoming CBCP head Angel Lagdameo (above) to lament the dismissal of impeachment against GMA.

Accepting Pagcor money splits bishops' ranks

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ yesterday denounced the use of gambling money to fund Roman Catholic Church projects for the poor, declaring that the end did not justify the means.

"Money from vice cannot be cleansed into a virtuous commodity by simply throwing this away to the needy, the hungry, the sick," the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate said in a strongly worded statement.

"It is a sad mistake to think that

money from the vice of gambling can usher in the virtues of benevolence and charity," Cruz said. "The end does not justify that means—this is elementary morality."

The Philippine Church hierarchy has found itself mired in the

political controversy hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo after a resigned Cabinet member suggested last week that proceeds from the state-operated Philippine Amusement and Gambling Corp., or Pagcor, was "taking care" of the bishops and me-

dia for the benefit of the Chief Executive.

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao and Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga, had reportedly received cash donations

ACCEPTING/ A22

AFP says soldiers under political pressure

By Dona Pazzibugan, Philip C. Tubeza and Luige A. del Puerto

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines yesterday said its officers and men were under constant pressure to join moves to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo but stressed the chain of command remained intact.

Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service, denied a claim by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon that Tuesday's dismissal of

the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo had caused a measure of unrest in the military.

"We would like to appeal to all groups and individuals to respect the position of the Armed Forces," said Honrado, referring to statements that the 113,000-strong military remained neutral and apolitical.

"We would like to maintain the political stand of the Armed Forces," Honrado told reporters. He said recruitment in the mili-

tary by elements seeking to unseat Ms Arroyo had been going on and had not stopped.

"We cannot say names. You know them, the retired officers," he said.

Retired Generals Renato de Villa, Ramon Montano, Fortunato Abat and the Retired Chapter of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. have spoken out against the 58-year-old President and have urged troops to withdraw support from her.

Biazon, Magsaysay

"Recruitment has not stopped since time immemorial," Honrado said. "There is no unrest. We are doing everything to ensure that the chain of command is intact," he said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. supported Biazon's observation that the quashing of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo had agitated a section of the AFP Biazon.

AFP SAYS/ A22

How La Salle president united opposition

By Fe Zamora

SOMEHOW, HIS FEELING OF unease led to the formation of the Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan (Coalition for Truth).

When the proimpeachment lawmakers walked out of the hearing of the House committee on justice in disgust, Br. Armin Luistro FSC was so disturbed that he phoned former President Corazon Aquino.

"I told her that maybe it was time to get the opposition together," the 43-year-old president of the De La Salle University System told the INQUIRER in an interview early this week.

Luistro recalled Aquino suggesting that they should include Susan Roces, widow of the 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. "And also the Hyatt 10," he remembered saying, referring to the group of key government officials who quit their posts and called on President Macapa-

HOW/ A6

Senate told Isafp looking for Abus in Tabayoyong house

By TJ Burgonio

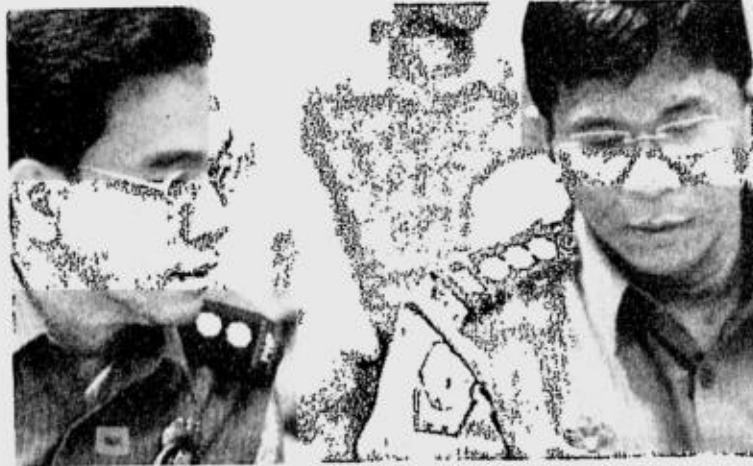
SEGUNDO TABAYOYONG, A suspected terrorist?

Agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) swooped down on Tabayoyong's safe house in San Mateo, Rizal, on the evening of Aug. 16 on suspicion that suspected terrorists were hiding there.

Testifying at the Senate inquiry into the raid, Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo said that Isafp agents conducted an operation in the area to flush out members of



SEGUNDO TABAYOYONG, former NBI handwriting expert. SENATE/ A8



DIFFERENT VERSIONS of the raid: Supt. Wilben Mayor (left) with Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, Metro Manila's CIDG chief. JESS YUSON



QUEVEDO, Isafp chief: Testimony draws expressions of disbelief. HOW/ A6

Flamboyant Lopez billionaire dies penniless at 74

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

(First of two parts)

ILOILO CITY—He was the city's flamboyant billionaire for over a decade. By the time he died of a brain aneurysm at the age of 74 this week, he was penniless.

On days when he felt like he owned the world, Fernando "Junjie" Javellana Lopez Jr. would tell aides to hitch his two Arabian horses to a white iron-wrought "Cinderella" carriage and he would go around historic Jaro Plaza to the fascination of Iloilo City's residents.

When he wanted to pretend he

FLAMBOYANT/ A6

THE LAST TO GO of the bling-blings of Fernando "Junjie" Javellana Lopez Jr., son of the late Vice President Fernando Lopez, was this Lincoln Town Car stretch limo, at 28 feet the country's longest automobile. "It's my status symbol," he had said. "Without it, I am nothing."



E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains on the Western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, FOR RESEARCH/09/09/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Beicolod	Cloudy with Rains
Bangalo	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Luang	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	San. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Lagayit	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

No deal, rights victims urge gov't

RIGHTS ABUSE VICTIMS YESTERDAY CONdemned reports that a secret deal had been struck between the Arroyo administration and the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to allow a hero's burial for the late strongman at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, head of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainee Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda), said they were utterly disgusted at reports that the government would allow the burial in exchange for Rep. Imee Marcos' no-show at the plenary vote on the impeachment complaint at the House last Tuesday.

She said the deal was "the final insult" to the victims of martial law "as the Arroyo regime has not even made good her pronouncements of giving the indemnification" to the rights abuse victims.

She warned the President that allowing the burial would "compel the victims of martial law to work to hasten her exit from Malacañang."

A prominent rights abuse victim, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo called the reported deal "absolutely unacceptable."

"Mrs. Arroyo should know that the Filipino people will not look lightly on a hero's burial for a convicted human rights violator, dictator and plunderer such as Ferdinand Marcos," said Ocampo.

He said that "if Mrs. Arroyo wants unity, she should seek to unite first with the Marcos human rights victims who have been continuing to wait for just compensation, and not the Marcoses who have been remorseless about their record of crimes against humanity and official thievery."

Alcuin Papa

IMPEACHMENT QUID PRO QUO?

Issue of Libingan burial for Marcos back from the dead

By Armand N. Nocum

THE LAWYER WHO FILED THE allegedly "sham" impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo has sounded out government about allowing the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said he did not ask lawyer Oliver Lozano, who went to see him two weeks ago, whether the lawyer had been authorized by his client, Imelda Marcos, to negotiate for the dictator's family.

But in a motion filed before the Supreme Court yesterday, Lozano denied entering into a deal with the President to allow a hero's burial for Marcos at the Libingan.

Speculations about a deal having been struck between Malacañang and the Marcos family have risen in the wake of the defeat of the impeachment complaint against the President in a marathon 23-hour session at the House last Tuesday, marked by the conspicuous absence of the dictator's daughter, Ilocos Sur Rep. Imee Marcos.

The Marcoses have been trying unsuccessfully to get the frozen remains of the dictator transferred to the Libingan, a very contentious issue with martial law rights abuse victims and the anti-dictatorship movement that brought down Marcos in the People Power revolution of 1986.

The Marcoses are preparing for the traditional annual observance of the dictator's 88th birth anniversary on Sept. 11, a working holiday in Ilocos Norte.

According to Gonzalez, Lozano had sounded him out "whether the time is ripe again for them to raise" the issue of Marcos' burial.

'Good show'

He quoted Lozano as saying that if the government were to allow the Marcos burial, "five million people will go down from Ilocos to attend the funeral and that would be good for the administration."

Lozano told him the move "would be a good show for the administration, that it's magnificent," Gonzalez said.

The justice secretary said, however, that as far as her or anyone in the Cabinet knew, there was no deal with the Marcoses.

He said that if the President is to enter into such a deal, it was likely she would consult with her Cabinet although he said she was free to enter into such an agreement.

"It's within her power, there is no legal impediment there. That's a matter of policy and only the President can decide on a policy like that, considering the controversy surrounding that," Gonzalez said.

Congress members who failed in their attempt to impeach the President suspect that the Lozano complaint, which the House committee on justice deemed insufficient in form and substance, had been filed to prevent them from filing a stronger complaint.

The Constitution bars the filing of more than one impeachment complaint against an impeachable official within a year.

This suspicion was apparently bolstered by the absence of Imee Marcos during the voting on the controversial justice committee report that threw out the Lozano impeachment complaint, and two other impeachment complaints, last Tuesday.

Gonzalez said the Palace had nothing to do with the absence of Imee Marcos, who was a very vocal proponent of the impeachment and before that had joined the forces calling for the President's resignation.

"I don't know about that. I myself was surprised why she was not there because she was a strong advocate for the impeachment. There are many reasons why somebody is absent and I cannot attribute that to a deal because there was no deal," Gonzalez said.

In the motion that he filed before the SC asking the high court to extend the period for him to file a petition to nullify the House justice committee report junking his complaint, Lozano said the "intrigue" about an alleged deal between the Marcos family and the President was "totally false."

He accused the House panel of committing "grave abuse of discretion" by throwing out his complaint which he claimed was "sufficient in form and substance."

He said the complaint was strong because it was based on the President's "public apology" of committing a "lapse of judgment" in talking with a top official of the Commission on Elections.

He said the move constituted a "breach of official duty by misfeasance."

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AFP evicts captain who testified vs GMA

By Dona Pazzibugan

AN ARMY CAPTAIN WHO TOLD a Senate investigation that he witnessed election fraud in last year's elections has been evicted from his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Capt. Marlon Mendoza, who served as security aide of missing elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, said a group of soldiers forcibly entered his quarters at Room 4-B on the second floor of the Company Grade Officers Condominium around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

He said the soldiers took his belongings and moved them to the nearby Logistics Command

(Logcom) headquarters.

Mendoza had testified before the Senate that Garcillano had told their group that suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda contributed P300 million to make sure President Macapagal-Arroyo won.

The military admitted that Mendoza was "forcibly evicted" from his quarters. Lt. Cmdr. Earl Pabalan, public information deputy chief, said the unit was considered "explicitly abandoned" since Mendoza had not been there for a month now.

Pabalan added that Mendoza had an outstanding electricity and water bill of around P30,000.

By Nelson F. Flores

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA yesterday said he had no objection to being placed under "city arrest" but stressed that his petition for bail should be given due course.

In a statement, Estrada said city arrest would be acceptable but his bail petition, which he described as meritorious, should be heard and he should be allowed to testify when the Sandiganbayan considers it.

Estrada is on trial for plunder and perjury in the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

Estrada said he had no intention of jumping bail and would spend most of his time attending to his aged mother.

He said he got the idea for city arrest from Bro. Mike Velarde when he attended the latter's birthday Mass at the Quirino Grandstand recently. He said he preferred bail to city arrest, however.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio

has firmly opposed Estrada's petition for bail, saying it had no legal basis.

In an impassioned plea Wednesday, Villa-Ignacio asked the Sandiganbayan not to allow Estrada to post bail on the basis of his not being a flight risk, as the defense lawyers insist. He said the constitutional guarantee to bail excludes those charged with capital offenses—like plunder—where evidence of guilt is strong.

On another front, Malacañang yesterday squelched speculations of a "secret deal" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Estrada after the President opened reconciliation talks with her predecessor.

The deal supposedly entailed bail for Estrada in exchange for his supporters in Congress not voting for the President's impeachment.

In a press statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President's offer of reconciliation to Estrada "lies within the tenets of

sincerity and humility, tempered with justice and the rule of law, as it lives within the standards of transparency and the greater good of the country and the Filipino people."

Estrada's son, opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, yesterday said his family would never broker a deal with the "illegitimate administration" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Walang deal na nangyari sa aming kampo at sa kampo ni Ginang Arroyo (There was no deal between our camp and Ms Arroyo's). We will never strike a deal with this administration because, as far as we're concerned, [it] is illegitimate," Estrada told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport prior to leaving for Los Angeles and San Francisco, USA.

The younger Estrada, who is on trial along with his father, is out on bail and was granted permission to travel by the Sandiganbayan until next week. *With Nikko Dizon*

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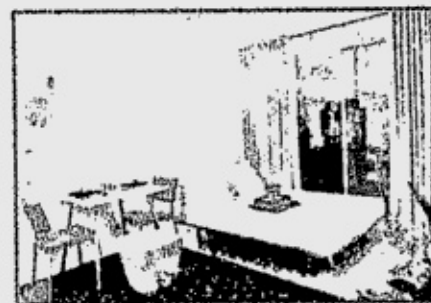
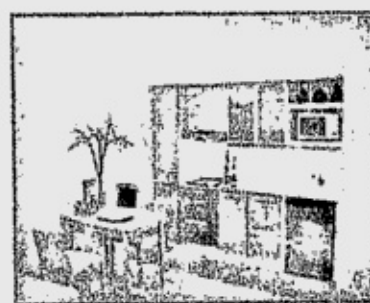
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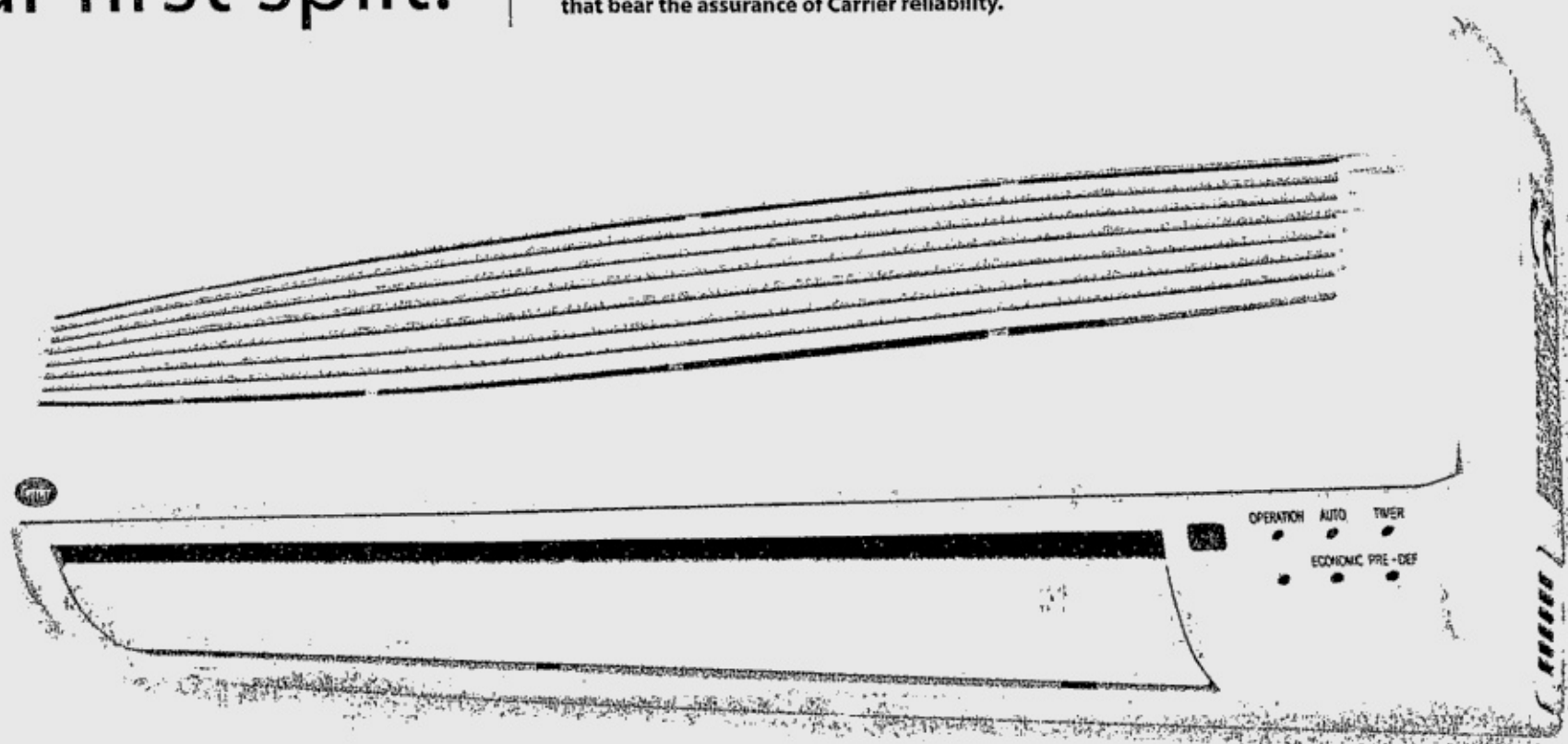
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Opposition colleague wants Escudero out as House minority leader

SMARTING FROM THE DEFEAT of the opposition bid to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, opposition Rep. Jacinto Paras yesterday said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero ought to be replaced as leader of the opposi-

tion in the chamber for his "dis-maying" handling of the impeachment complaint.

He said there should be a reorganization and that San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora take over as minority leader "since he han-

dled the [complaint] well."

Paras noted Escudero's absence during the minority's failed bid to get the 79 votes needed to transmit the complaint to the Senate and during the walk-out last week.

"He was in the United States

purportedly to ask (former Isabela governor) Jun Dy to testify but that turned out to be useless," the Negros Occidental congressman said.

"The minority also sometimes issued different statements during the impeachment process," he

added.

Paras noted that opposition members who failed to vote for impeachment, like Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, were Escudero's favored associates.

The minority needed a leader who had "no other agenda," said Paras, noting that Escudero is reported to be eyeing a Senate seat.

"We need a leader who can concentrate on nurturing the flock," he said. **Philip C. Tubeza**

PAYBACK TIME

'No' solons face wrath of majority

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S PAYBACK TIME.

The majority in the House of Representatives is set to decide the fate of members who had voted to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday.

Nograles said the majority coalition would hold a caucus on Sept. 21 to decide if their colleagues should be stripped of their committee chairmanships and other positions of leadership in the House for not following the party line.

"Walang personalan dito (It's nothing personal). We would just be executing the decision of the majority. Let them decide the fate of those who voted against us. Speaker Jose de Venecia and I will follow the consensus," said Nograles, a member of Lakas-CMD, the biggest party in the coalition.

Those who switched their support back to the President at the last minute, however, would be spared in any purge.

Nograles said Western Samar Rep. Reynaldo Uy (LP), chair of the House committee on population and family relations, was expected to keep his post since he did not vote on Tuesday although he had signed the impeachment complaint.

"The effect is he withdrew his signature (since) he was not present to vote," Nograles said.

He said he would suggest that the political parties in the majority coalition be allowed to nominate the replacements for their members who voted to impeach the President.

"There will be no witch-hunt, retribution or too much partisan politics. The parties would continue to have their own slots," Nograles said.

Among the lawmakers expected to lose their committee chairmanships were Representatives

Cynthia Villar (NP, Las Piñas City), high and technical education; Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte), accounts; Gilbert Remulla (NP, Cavite), public information; Teodoro Locsin (PDP-Laban, Makati City), suffrage and electoral reforms; Edmundo Reyes Jr. (Lakas, Marinduque), basic education and culture;

Nereus Acosta (LP, Bukidnon), ecology; Hermilando Mandanas (LP, Batangas), Southern Tagalog development; Rozzano Rufino Biazon (LP, Muntinlupa), Metro Manila development, and Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan party-list), human rights.

Also expected to be stripped of their posts were Deputy Speaker for Central Luzon Benigno "Noy" Aquino III (LP, Tarlac), Clavel Martinez (Lakas, Cebu), vice chair of the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments, and Antonino Roman (LP, Bataan), a member of the CA.

Asked about those who had abstained from voting, like Jaime Lopez (Lakas, Manila), chair of the committee on banks and financial intermediaries, Nograles said: "Well, I think we will also abstain (the) decision on them."

Nograles said these congressmen would still be welcome to remain in the majority coalition.

"They're free to stay in the majority. Privately, when they voted to impeach Gloria, they already knew the consequences of their action," Nograles said.

For her part, Villar told the INQUIRER she would leave it to the majority to decide their fate.

"It would depend on what the Speaker will do. If they want us out, then what can we do? Okay lang. I'm just a simple member and I've said that I am ready to face the consequences of my actions," she said. Villar is the wife of Sen. Manuel Villar, the president of the Nacionalista Party.



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NDF denies agreeing to resumption of talks

By Dona Pazzibugan

COMMUNIST REBELS YESTERDAY denied they had agreed to resume formal peace talks with the government next month, renewing demands that the government have them delisted as a terrorist organization and free jailed militants.

Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the communist-led National Democratic Front, said in a statement yesterday that the informal consultations that were held in Oslo, Norway, in late August "did not result in an agreement to resume formal meetings of the negotiating panels and undertake a joint ceasefire."

"The government representatives did not have the mandate to conclude any agreement with the NDF," he said.

The government panel last night assailed its communist counterpart for yet another turnaround in its position.

After meeting last night, the government peace panel said Jalandoni's statement "reflects the total opposite of what transpired between the two panels."

It was referring to the statement issued by Jalandoni yesterday.

"It is a sudden and mystifying turnaround from the agreements attested to by the facilitators of the Royal Norwegian government that we reached as a consequence of two cordial meetings held in the afternoon of 29-30 August 2005," the government peace panel said.

It said the NDF statement "has disturbed the environment con-

ducive to fruitful dialogue that both panels committed in the runup to the resumption of talks."

"The panel is in consultation with its principal and the RNG on the options it may take in response to the NDF's reversal of its position," the government peace panel said.

On Wednesday, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process issued a statement saying that the two sides had agreed to a limited ceasefire and would resume formal talks next month, "after a cordial exchange of letters between the parties following informal talks held in Oslo, Norway, on Aug. 28 to 30."

Jalandoni said that there were "several outstanding issues" that had to be resolved before formal talks could start.

Among the rebel demands were their continuing calls for the government to free "political prisoners" or leftist militants and the de-listing of the Communist Party and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as a "terrorist organization" by the United States and European Union.

Jalandoni also called for a halt to alleged government assassination threats against senior NDF legal consultant Romeo Capulong and CPP founder Jose Maria Sison.

The demands "must be first answered satisfactorily by the (government) before the date, place and agenda for the resumption of formal meetings of the negotiating panels can be set," he said. **With Christine Avendaño**

Flamboyant Lopez billionaire dies penniless

From page A1

was a high-rolling Hollywood star, the third of the six children of former Vice President Fernando Lopez Sr. would take his 28-foot-long white Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine and hie off to the city's most expensive hotels to wine and dine his friends.

His birthday celebrations were equally legendary for their bacchanalian proportions held in one of his many luxury homes—with New Year-style fireworks, flowing drinks, heaping plates of food, and mahjongg marathons enjoyed by his friends and hangers-on from all walks of life.

The man known for his eccentric lifestyle and frankness quietly left his colorful world on Tuesday at 3 p.m. at the Iloilo Mission Hospital.

His favorite nephew, Alberto "Tito" Lopez III, said aides brought his uncle to the hospital in the morning of Aug. 25 after he felt ill and was barely conscious in the staff house at the Lopez-owned University of Iloilo in Pavia town, 10 km west of Iloilo City.

Junjie couldn't hang on and fell into a coma the following day after doctors performed the first of

two surgeries to remove a blood clot in his brain.

He quietly passed away Tuesday only 30 minutes after his younger brother, former Rep. Alberto "Albertito" Lopez II of Iloilo's second district, left his bedside with other family members.

Darling of the masses

Like a comet, the bachelor Junjie became particularly prominent in Iloilo's society scene and became a darling of the masses when he inherited part of the P1.2 billion that his father had left him and his siblings upon the Lopez patriarch's death on May 26, 1993.

"I was deprived in my younger days," Junjie told the INQUIRER in past articles, to explain his almost obsessive display of ostentatious wealth.

Born into a family of old wealth that lorded it over the sugar bloc in the pre-Marcos years, Junjie said he had a strict father who would tell his children to keep quiet and demanded complete obedience.

Enjoy

Fun would come only when the family traveled abroad. Allowances were strictly controlled and were just enough for basic

needs, said Junjie who, in the same breath, said he admired his father's business and political acumen.

Fernando Sr. served as Vice President under President Elpidio Quirino (1949-53) and Ferdinand Marcos (1965-69 and 1969-72).

A lawyer who graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas in 1925, Fernando Sr. helped his older brother Eugenio manage the family businesses that included Iloilo-Negros Air Express Co. (the first Filipino-owned air service), Iloilo Times, Manila Chronicle and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

"Junjie was brought up by his authoritarian father. He was supposedly the heir to the Nacionalista Party which his father helped build, but in the end, he just wanted to enjoy life," said Martin Soriano, Panay News columnist and Iloilo's chronicler of high society.

Junjie, in previous conversations, said his father did all to "straighten me out." He said he was sent to a military school in the United States but was not able to last a year. He shifted to agriculture so he could help manage the family's vast landholdings on Panay and Negros islands.

But after getting part of the Lopez patriarch's billions as his inheritance, Junjie was like a dam that burst and couldn't control the *joie de vivre* that he had long suppressed.

Lavish lifestyle

In the late 1990s all the way to 2000, Junjie's lavish lifestyle earned him reams of newsprint and hours of airtime in local and national media.

At one time, he had more than 1,000 fighting cocks "housed" in a breeding farm in Iloilo since cockfighting was one of his pastimes.

Every time he won or was simply on the verge of winning, he would throw around wads of peso bills in the Jaro Coliseum and all hell would break loose as the "great unwashed" scammed to pick up the P10 to P100 bills.

He also had his foul moods. When his favorite fighting cock lost or was killed, he would sulk and leave his throne-like, custom-made chair at the cockpit.

Otherwise, he freely gave money to anyone who asked him.

Heavy withdrawals

The Bank of the Philippine Islands in Jaro, near the Lopez colonial mansion where Junjie

stayed for a time before he got his inheritance, accommodated the mink-clad Lopez scion more than three times a week when he would withdraw hundreds of thousands of pesos in money bags.

He set the whole city and the media in a frenzy of criticism when during the Asian financial crisis of 1997, he unthinkingly drove around the city's narrow streets in his newly bought stretch limo from the US that reportedly cost P8 million, excluding freight charges.

"But it is my own money," he defended himself then, a little bewildered over all the brouhaha he was causing.

At his wealthiest, Junjie owned condominiums in Manila, four luxury homes in posh Southville

in Molo District, three in Villa District, and one each in Guimaras, the Iloilo town of Cabatuan, and in Kalibo, Aklan.

He owned a fleet of 10 cars, mostly of the latest models, and two classic Mercedes Benzes.

Alex Jimogaon, a trusted aide, said Junjie gave away some P5 million a month to people who asked for money.

"He complained about it (the giving) but he kept on giving them money. He would tell them off but they kept on coming back, and he kept on giving," said Jimogaon in Hiligaynon.

Asked why he didn't put his money in a trust fund for proper management, Junjie said it was because he wanted to give his money to the poor when they asked for it. (To be concluded tomorrow)

How La Salle . . .

From page A1

gal-Arroyo to do the same.

It was Aug. 30. The walkout of the proimpeachment team took place at 4:15 p.m., and Luistro's phone conversation with Aquino, at 8 p.m. He barely slept that night, he said.

The next day, a Wednesday, Luistro sent text messages to Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman of the Hyatt 10, and other anti-Arroyo personalities, telling them of the need to unite.

They arrived at a consensus in a little more than an hour. "We decided, basta, we will have an interfaith prayer meeting," Luistro recalled.

On Sept. 2, close to 500 leaders and members of more than 30 anti-Arroyo organizations assembled at the La Salle Green Hills cafeteria for an interfaith Mass. It was the first gathering of diverse political forces since the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II was convened on Oct. 29, 2000, to push for the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

'History of mistrust'

Those who attended the Mass presented an image of a 'united' opposition—the two widows, Aquino and Roces; evangelist Eddie Villanueva, also a presidential candidate in 2004; Soliman and other Hyatt 10 members Teresita "Ging" Deles and Florencio "Butch" Abad; Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales; Bayan chair Carol Araullo and secretary general Renato Reyes; retired Gen. Fortunato Abat; Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez; "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes; Ed de la Torre, convenor of the Unity for Truth and Justice (UTJ); Mayors Jejomar Binay and JV Ejercito of Makati and San Juan, respectively; Akbayan president Ronald Llamas; Reporma chair Renato de Villa; "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam; lawyer Liwayway Vinzon-Chato; civil society members Tricicle Sison and Leah Navarro; Estrada supporters Jose Pardo and Marichu Vera Perez...

Bukluran would have its first meeting right after the interfaith Mass. And it was only during the two-hour closed-door meeting held in one of the offices at La Salle Green Hills that Luistro got to know the coalition members.

"I didn't know them, but they all seemed to know one another," Luistro said, chuckling.

But he said he also noted a certain tension and discomfort among some of the personalities who had a "history of mistrust" of each other.

Points of convergence

"It's a very fragile coalition, but these groups have their points of convergence. Bringing them together was the real challenge," Luistro said.

He said Bukluran was open to all groups that did not advocate violence or the use of arms in the pursuit of truth.

According to Luistro, the invitation to the interfaith prayer meeting was also explicit: No political statements, no sloganeering, no unfurling of banners.

Thus, Roces' decision to decline a request for her to deliver a short speech was welcomed by certain coalition members who, Luistro said, "thought that she might give a political color to the gathering."

But on the whole, the coalition was a welcome idea.

"The mood is, 'Let's get our act together,'" said UTJ convenor De la Torre. "It's good that it's being led by someone who does not belong to the organized political opposition,



LUISTRO brings two symbols together. PDI PHOTO

someone who does not represent the traditional opposition forces."

The UTJ, which was convened in July, also tried but failed to bring the anti-Arroyo forces together.

In fact, it was just one of several attempts to form a coalition of groups committed to get the President out of Malacañang but could not agree on the method.

"While we agree on ousting her, there were disagreements on whether it should be through impeachment or through a people's movement," said Bayan's Reyes.

Successor

There was also the all-important issue of who or what should replace Ms Arroyo.

Aquino, the Hyatt 10 and the groups that called for Ms Arroyo's resignation last July 8 had wanted Vice President Noli de Castro to replace her.

On the other hand, at least three large groups wanted her ousted through a people power movement and replaced by a caretaker council (as proposed by the UTJ), a revolutionary transition government (as proposed by Laban ng Masa), or a transition council (as proposed by the Gloria Step Down Movement).

Last month, the White Ribbon Movement—led by Sr. Mary John Mananzan and Dr. Mingueta Padilla-Marasigan, among others—also tried to gather the professionals under a coalition. But it was unclear on its proposed alternative to the Arroyo administration.

Also last month, the Black and White Movement—a middle-class coalition that includes the Hyatt 10—was launched.

It proposed a combination of constitutional and extra-constitutional methods in ousting Ms Arroyo, and backed the impeachment case even as it agreed that a people power uprising was not an unlikely option.

It also proposed that De Castro succeed Ms Arroyo, but only as the leader of a coalition government.

'Disinterested party'

The Black and White Movement would actually become the launching pad for Bukluran.

According to Akbayan's Llamas, it helped a lot that Luistro and the De La Salle brothers were seen as a "fulcrum."

"They are a disinterested party. We know that they have no plans to perpetuate themselves in power," Llamas said.

He also pointed out that Luistro—who was among the first to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation following the exposé on the "Hello Garci" tapes in June—had gathered together those organizations that represented "the widest spectrum possible."

"It's the sign of the times," De la Torre said of Bukluran. "Maybe the people were just waiting for someone [else] to make the call. I feel that if anyone from the organized political opposition had called, the others would not have joined [the coalition]."

De la Torre also lauded Luistro for bringing Aquino and Roces together.

"They are symbols—very important in any movement," he said.

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.



MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE



POSTED ONLINE AT THE MERALCO WEBSITE: www.meralco.com.ph

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

LAGUNA (LOS BANOS)

BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:45PM AND 6:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT LOS BANOS 31WT

Portion of PNR Railroad Track and San Luis St. from near Los Baños National Road to and including Dairyville Subd., Pleasant Village, Hillside Subd., L. A. Village, Bos Buol'ap Pulho-Tuntungin.

Portion of Silangan Grove from near International Rice Research Institute to Lopez Ave. in Bo. San Antonio. REASON: Urgent Transco maintenance work along Makban - Los Baños 69 kV transmission lines.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2005

LAGUNA (SAN PEDRO)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 09/12/05) AND 4:00AM (TUE., 09/13/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN PEDRO 42WH

Portion of San Pedro - Bihang National Road from Meralco - San Pedro substation near Cosmos Bottling - San Pedro Plant to near Louie Furniture including Stayfast Phils in Bgys. Landayan and Nueva.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along National Road in Bgy. Landayan San Pedro Laguna

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

BULACAN (SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GAYA-GAYA 32YS

Portion of Bocaue Provincial Road from Meralco-Gaya-Gaya substation to Quirino Highway including Daily Harvest, Highlander Deli Corp., Robis II Subd., Mankok Homes I, Jollibee, Tanawan Road, Igay Road, Carissa Homes North 6, Bgys. Sapang Alit. Sto. Cristo, Paradise II, San Isidro Labrador and Kaybanban.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GAYA-GAYA 32YS

Portion of Quirino Highway from Skyline Road to and including Marcella Vill No. 2, Gumaoc East, Gumaoc West, Gumaoc Central, Cityville Homes, Paradise I and Robis III Subd. in Bgy. Maharlika.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GAYA-GAYA 32YS

Portion of Quirino Highway from Caltex gas station near Skyline Road to and including Shell gas station, LB Joson & Sons Inc. and San Jose del Monte Water District in Bgy. Tungkong Mangga

REASON: Relocation of poles affected by road widening project along Quirino Highway in Bgy. Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ AND PILA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 32WF, 33WF, 34WF AND 35WF

The whole towns of Sta. Cruz and Pila. REASON: Transco repair work along Caliraya - Sta. Cruz 69 kV transmission lines

CAVITE

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ASBUBOT 32XZ AND TANZA 38ZW

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Dasmariñas Service Center to near Villa Luisa Homes including Asuncion Subd., Camerino Ave., Don Placido Campo Drive, Dasmaville, Alcantara Subd., Medinaville Subd., Satellite Homes, Fiesta Homes Subd., St. Maryville, Emerald Crest, Wood Estate, Village in Bo. San Jose, Solar Homes, Marycris Complex and Dexterville Subd. in Dasmariñas, Parklane Homes in Bo. San Francisco, Sitos Kanulahan, Elang, Maraias, Bos Santiago, Iplian and Pasong Camachile in Gen. Trias.

Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from Meralco-Tanza substation to Tanza-Trece Martinez Highway including Bgy. Armay, Capt. C. Montano and Cerrado Sts. in Tanza.

Along Tanza-Trece Martinez Highway from Antero Soriano Highway to near Paaralang Elem ng Florantino Hoya including Retirees Village and Bgy. Mulawan in Tanza

Along Teyoro Provincial Road and Sta. Clara Provincial Road from Tanza-Trece Martinez Highway to near Bo. Pasong Camachile including Pamahalaang Bayan ng Tanza, Familyville Subd. in Tanza, Teyoro Subd., Manso Foods, Bos. San Juan, Sta. Clara, Royal Subd., San

Juan Bgy. Hall and Health Station, St. Francis Subd., Gov. Ferrer, Mendoza Sts., Poblacion town proper, San Antonio Subd., San Gabriel Rice Mill in Gen. Trias; and Bo. Bocaue in Rosario.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Abubot substation

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY AND SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAPANG PALAY 32YO, 33YO AND 34YO

Mardeka Marble, Towerville, City Homes Builders, Igay Cockpit, Sapang Palay National High School, Bgys. Aniban, Palto, San Mateo, Sto. Cristo, San Pedro, Sablang Kampana, Dulog Bayan and Sita Gulod in San Jose del Monte.

Minuyan Marble, Mariane Homes, Guillan Marble, Sanchario de Paz Memorial Park, Bgys. Bigte, Tigbe, Minuyan and Bilungol in Norzagaray

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN JOSE 41SJ - ANGAT 42AG

Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo. REASON: Various maintenance work along San Jose - Angat 34.5 kV transmission line

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2005

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY AND PAGBILAO)

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 10:30PM (THU., 09/15/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LUCENA II 11ZH

Portion of Maharlika Highway from Market Ave. to and including M. S. Enverga Ave., Panganiban River-side Subd., San Francisco Village Subd., Sto. Niño Subd.

Along M. S. Enverga Ave. from Maharlika Highway to and including University Village, Family Land Subd. and Villa Juliana Subd. in Bgy. Ibabang Dupay

BETWEEN 10:30PM (THU., 09/15/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT PAGBILAO 11WD; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT LUCENA II 11ZH

Portion of Maharlika Highway from near M. S. Enverga Ave. in Bgy. Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City to and including Bgys. Silangan Malibico, Binahaan, Ibabang Palsabangon, Pinagbayanan, Ikin, Real Parang, Daungan, Talpian in Pagbilao; Lucena City Gov't Employee Subd., RGR Subd., Bgys. Silangan Mayao, Pantan, Himalaya, Mayao Castillo and Maabo in Lucena City.

BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 44ZY

Portion of Maharlika Highway from near Bonifacio Drive to and including the whole town of Pagbilao, Cleade Heights Subd., Purok Pag-asa, Alpsville Subd., RJ Villa Subd., Village of St. Jude, Calmar Homes, Pearl Executive Village, Bgys. Ibabang Dupay, Kanlurang Mayao in Lucena City.

REASONS: 1. Conversion of portion of 4.8 kV circuit Pagbilao 11WD to 20 kV system

2. Loadshifting of portion of circuit Lucena II 11ZH to circuit Pagbilao 11WD

MANILA (TONDOL)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:15PM (THU., 09/15/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:45AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 14H

Portion of Solis and Juan Luna Sts. from Jose Abad Santos Ave. (Manuguit) to and including Hermosa, Pangpanga, Benita, Pag-asa, Molave, Calatagan and 18 de Junio Sts.

Portion of Tomas Earnshaw and Pangpanga Sts. from Vicente Del Fierro St. to Juan Luna St.

Along Danganan, Javier and Pag-asa Sts. from Hermosa Ext. to Juan Luna St. including Benita and R. Fernandez Sts.

Portion of Hermosa and Bagac Sts. from Benita St. to and including T. Bugallon, Corregidor, Limay, Molave, Morong, Pilar, Dagupan and Clemente Sts. in Manuguit Subd.

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 09/15/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 14H

Portion of Jose Abad Santos Ave. (Manuguit) and Rizal Ave. Ext. from Hermosa St. to near R. Papa St.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 09/15/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 09/16/05) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 14H

Portion of Jose Abad Santos Ave. (Manuguit) from Solis St. to near Hermosa St.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Jose Abad Santos Ave. (Manuguit) in Tondo, Manila.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY AND SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS GAYA-GAYA 32YS & 33YS AND SAPANG PALAY 33YO, PORTION OF CIRCUITS GAYA-GAYA 34YS AND SAPANG PALAY 34YO

Portion of Bocaue Provincial Road from Meralco-Gaya-Gaya substation to and including Robes 2 & 3 Subd., Francisco Realty Dev. Corp., Mankok Homes I, Grottoville Subd., Lourdes Subd., Skyline Road, Paradise Farm Drive, Demex Rattan Craft, Amihan Farms, Nutrimix Feeds, Francisco Homes, Pabayah 2000, Melody Plains Subd., Goldland Farms, Grace Villa, Milvin Farm, Mangold Village, Harmony Hills, Bgys. Kamandalaan, Caceres, La Poblacion, Muzon Igay, Citrus Road, Roads 1, 11, 12, Rocco Corp. Newton Drive, Mardeka Marble, Richmond Foods, Friendship Village, Sapang Palay National High School, Bgys. Dulog Bayan, Sablang Kampana, San Pedro, Aniban, Palto, San Mateo, Sto. Niño and San Marlin in San Jose del Monte.

Bgys. Minuyan, Bilungol and Tigbe in Norzagaray.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GAYA-GAYA 34YS

Portion of Bocaue - Provincial Road from Meralco-Gaya-Gaya substation to near Dulog Bayan including AMR Marble, Verde Heights Subd., SUDM Municipal Hall, Carissa Homes 5A & 5B, Carissa Homes North Ph. 2A, 4A & 4B and Vitanch Cobbs #2 in San Jose del Monte.

REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco Gaya-Gaya substation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ROSARIO 42RS AND 43RS, ASBUBOT 37XZ, 38XZ AND 39XZ AND CAVITE 12ZD, 13ZD, 16ZD AND 19ZD

The whole of Cavite City, Rosario and Noveleta. Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from near Imus-Dasmariñas boundary to near Meralco-Pala-Pala substation including Arconita Subd. Resort, Crescent Hills Village, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Drive, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Cantimban Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas

Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Adamez Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4 Andreville Executive Homes, TUP-Dasmarinas The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes Springville West, Molino 3, Annville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor

Portion of Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional South Road including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Bural, Manuella Village, Summerwind IV and Southeast Village in Dasmariñas.

Along Congressional South Road including Bural I and II, Areas C and H, Sta. Fe, Clusters B and D, San Francisco, Clithomes, Bo. San Mateo, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas

REASON: TransCo maintenance work along Dasmariñas - Abubot - Rosario 115 k

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Zaini, who also chairs the Ascad secretariat, strongly believes that "with the close relationship among (Ascad member-cities), we can develop a network that will embark on drug demand reduction activities and combat the escalating drug menace and related crimes."



'Hyatt 10' eyes Senate, SC as venues to spill beans on GMA

By Fe Zamora and Alcuin Papa

THE SENATE, THE SUPREME COURT, A people's tribunal or any other public forum are now being considered by the so-called "Hyatt 10" as possible venues to present evidence that President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in the 2004 elections, members of the group said yesterday.

The Hyatt 10 refers to former government officials who resigned on July 8 and then urged the President to do the same.

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said the group was ready to face a formal investigation. "It's hard to move on if we know that the truth has not really been told," she said in a telephone interview.

Voting 158-51 with six abstentions, the House of Representatives on Tuesday supported the justice committee report junking the three impeachment complaints accusing Ms Arroyo of election fraud and other illegal acts.

Like the Hyatt 10, opposition witnesses

Samuel Ong, Michaelangelo Zuce and Marietta Santos were willing to testify in any venue that would revive the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, according to lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.

"They are as determined as ever. They have not changed their minds," Vinzons-Chato, a lawyer identified with the anti-Arroyo camp, said in a telephone interview.

Ong, a former deputy director at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), announced on June 10 that he had the "mother of all tapes," a three-hour wire-

tap of Ms Arroyo's conversations with an election official, which suggested plans to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

On June 27, the President apologized for making the calls as a "lapse in judgment." She denied cheating in the polls, however.

Zuce, a former staffer in the Malacañang political affairs office, had testified that "jueteng" money was distributed to election officials in the presence of Ms Arroyo about four months before the elec-

tions. He said the money was distributed after a meeting at the President's home in La Vista, a swank subdivision in Quezon City.

Santos was the girlfriend of military agent Sgt. Vidal Doble. In her testimony before the House committee on public information, Santos corroborated Ong's statement that the "Hello Garci" tapes had come from Doble.

Ong has not been seen since June 13 when he left the San Carlos seminary in Makati City.

Senate told Isafp looking for Abus in Tabayoyong house

From page A1

the Abu Sayyaf group, tagged as a terrorist organization by the United States.

Alex Cajal, an alleged Abu Sayyaf member who was captured in Zamboanga on July 31, had told his military interrogators about the presence of some cohorts in San Mateo, he said.

"He gave information that there were some ASG members there," Quevedo said at the Senate's initial hearing on the raid, which had been decried by several senators as a "Gestapo-like" operation reminiscent of martial law.

Quevedo's testimony drew statements of disbelief from the senators, particular-

ly Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who muttered: "Oh my goodness, this is fantastic."

Pressed by Enrile on how the agents managed to trace the whereabouts of the suspected terrorists to the safe house, he said: "When we checked by validating information, we came to the house."

Police state

At one point during the hearing, an incensed Enrile demanded that Quevedo submit a copy of the intelligence report used as a basis for the "raid" and search on Tabayoyong's safe house.

"You can't just do these things. These are contained in the Bill of Rights of the

people. This is not a police state. You're much worse than our martial law," said Enrile, President Ferdinand Marcos' defense minister, eliciting chuckles.

At the joint hearing of the committees on public, justice and national order chaired by Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., Tabayoyong came face to face with the raiding agents from the Isafp and the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Landlady

Tabayoyong's landlady, Carmela Cabuhat, was conspicuously absent. She had suffered a relapse after undergoing a mastectomy last month, and was resting at home, according to her lawyer.

Tabayoyong, a retired document examiner of the National Bureau of Investigation, was commissioned by the opposition to examine "pre-fabricated" election returns (ERs) believed to have been used by the administration camp to cheat in last year's presidential elections.

The agents recovered boxes of election materials, including the ERs, a homemade .38-cal. revolver and ammunition.

The authorities subsequently lodged charges of illegal possession of firearms against Tabayoyong and returned the election materials to the lawyer of the document analyst and former Sen. Loren Legarda.

Initial reports showed that Legarda, running mate of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., had asked Tabayoyong to study the boxes of ERs, which were the copies of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Different version

When his turn came to testify, Maj. Serme Ayuyao, a lawyer who headed the Isafp raiding team, offered a different version of how Isafp agents got to Tabayoyong's safe house.

Ayuyao recalled that on Aug. 16 he headed a team of agents to conduct a "case buildup" after receiving information from a confidential agent about Tabayoyong's "discreet meetings" and "bringing in of suspicious" boxes.

He said he asked Cabuhat's neighbors, including a couple, about Tabayoyong's activities and was later introduced to Cabuhat, who welcomed him and the other agents into her home.

While there, Cabuhat opened Tabayoyong's rented room and there Ayuyao said he saw the heaps of election materials. Another agent found a gun in the room.

Clearly lying

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, reminded Ayuyao that his testimony contradicted an affidavit executed by Cabuhat with the CIDG on Aug. 17, who said that it was the Isafp agents who informed her about the suspicious documents in Tabayoyong's room.

"You're clearly lying. Senator Enrile is right, you won't be going home tonight," he told Ayuyao, who became flushed.

Supt. Wilben Mayor, head of the CIDG raiding team, said he dispatched a team to coordinate with the Isafp after getting a call from Ayuyao at about 6 p.m. on Aug. 16 about the discovery of election materials and a gun in the safe house.

He said the group felt no need to get a search warrant from the courts because the Isafp was already in the area and had secured the questionable documents.

Sympathizer

In his testimony, Tabayoyong said he was surprised Cabuhat would squeal on him. He noted that his landlady was the one who had invited him to stay in her house and was aware of his activities. She also sympathized with him and considered him her "father," he said.

He recalled meeting Cabuhat in another safe house in Quezon City in September 2003, where he had sought refuge after testifying on the Jose Pidal accounts of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in the Senate.

Tabayoyong said he stayed in Cabuhat's home from late 2003 until she left for Japan in November 2004 and up to July this year. During his stay there, Cabuhat's child and a maid were with Tabayoyong.

"In a way I was caretaker [of the house]," he said. "I wonder no end why suddenly she would say I was doing something illegal on the election returns. She sympathized with what I was doing."

Tabayoyong also took to task the Isafp and CIDG agents for the damage done to his personal belongings, including a piece of luggage that contained the ERs and his findings.

Fil-Ams to hound GMA in streets of NY

From page A1

day said the President next week would be facing world leaders and the international press with confidence arising from Tuesday's defeat of the impeachment bid against her in the House of Representatives.

Militant groups, however, said jeers—not cheers—would greet Ms Arroyo when she presides over a Security Council summit of

world leaders at the UN headquarters in New York.

Prepared to answer US media

Even so, Romulo said Ms Arroyo was prepared to explain the continuing street protests in Metro Manila and the volatility of Philippine politics should these issues crop up during her meetings with the foreign press.

"The impeachment vote was decisive and they will see that the

numbers are overwhelming," the foreign secretary said in a briefing on the President's trip to the United Nations.

The UN trip would give Ms Arroyo a break from allegations that she rigged the 2004 presidential election and place her in the proud row of world VIPs.

Meetings with Bush

No meetings have been scheduled between Ms Arroyo and US President George W. Bush, but Romulo said there would be "ample time" for possible informal talks between the two leaders in the sidelines of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly.

The likely venues for these encounters would be the Security Council summit and the luncheon to be hosted by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Ms Arroyo will preside over the Sept. 14 summit since it is the turn of the Philippines, a four-time nonpermanent member, to chair the council this month. The DFA has touted this event as "a major diplomatic coup" that would make Ms Arroyo "the first Filipino President, the first Asian head of state and the first woman leader to preside over a summit of the Security Council."

Included in Ms Arroyo's official schedule are bilateral meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, according to Romulo.

Ms Arroyo is also scheduled to meet with the Filipino-American community in New York and join them in services honoring St. Lorenzo Ruiz in a chapel serving as his shrine in the city.

Forums, teach-ins

Militant groups and their allies, however, have lined up protests against Ms Arroyo in New York.

"We'll embarrass her in the international community," said Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas spokesperson Carl Ala. "She will be hounded by protest actions wherever she goes."

Ala said forces of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in the United States have been planning demonstrations since they learned Ms Arroyo would be traveling to New York.

He said members from the New York Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines and the United Students Against Sweatshops would be joining the demonstrations.

Members of the International Solidarity Mission, the fact-finding team that visited the Philippines last month and found the Arroyo administration guilty of human rights abuses, would also join the street protests.

"They have been organizing forums, symposiums, and teach-ins to tell Americans what Ms Arroyo's crimes are in the Philippines," Ala said.

The teach-ins mostly discussed the killing of at least seven strikers at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac last year, and the alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential election, he added.

Among the world leaders attending the Security Council summit are Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and French President Jacques Chirac.

The Sept. 14 summit will only be the third of its kind in UN history.



KONICA MINOLTA

DIMAGE



KONICA MINOLTA

DYNAX



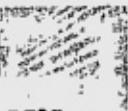
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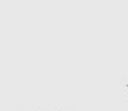
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Annan, Council rapped in oil/food probe

By Evelyn Leopold and Irwin Arief

UNITED NATIONS—A YEARLONG PROBE INTO the Iraqi oil-for-food program heaped sharp criticism on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, his deputy and the UN Security Council on Wednesday for allowing Saddam Hussein to illegally obtain more than \$10 billion.

The program, which allowed Hussein to sell oil to buy food and choose his own customers, "was a compact with the devil and the devil had means for manipulating the program to his ends," said Paul Volcker, the former US Federal Reserve chairman, who headed the probe.



VOLCKER

Volcker delivered his nearly 1,000-page five-volume report to the 15-nation Security Council and told them to institute sweeping management reforms.

The report said a major problem was that no one was in charge of the \$64-billion program—neither the Security Council, meant to supervise it, nor the UN secretariat headed by Annan. But Annan is not accused of personal gain or influencing contract bidding, which involved a firm that employed his son, Kojo.

Annan told the council "the report is critical of me personally, and I accept its criticism," adding that the findings are "deeply embarrassing to us all." He, like Volcker, said member states had to approve some of the sweeping financial controls the United Nations has proposed.

The report said the former Iraqi president was able to divert \$10 billion under oil-for-food, which began in late 1996 and ended in 2003. Of this, \$1.8 billion was from revenues related to the program, the Independent Inquiry Committee said.

Another \$8.4 billion came from smuggling oil to Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, with the knowledge of UN Security Council members, who were to enforce sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

"The committee's central conclusion is that the United Nations requires stronger executive leadership, thoroughgoing administrative reform and more reliable controls and auditing," the panel said in a statement.

"However, responsibility for what went wrong with the program cannot be laid exclusively at

the door of the (UN) secretariat," the panel said. "Members of the Security Council ... must shoulder their share of the blame in providing uneven and wavering direction in the implementation of the program."

The Volcker report also faulted Canadian Louise Frechette, the UN deputy secretary general, whom Annan assigned at one point to oversee the program.

"The committee finds that the deputy secretary general, apparently uncertain of her role, did not provide the degree of leadership and oversight that the complex program required," the report said.

The panel also criticized Kojo Annan for trying to lobby UN purchasing officials on behalf of the Swiss firm Cotecna, which received a lucrative contract for Iraq.

The younger Annan also imported a costly Mercedes into Ghana using his father's diplomatic cover to avoid taxes and customs duty. There was no evidence the secretary general knew about this.

The report also disclosed that Iraq tried to bribe former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali with over \$1 billion. But it said it had no evidence that Boutros-Ghali, in office in 1996 when the program was created, had been aware of Iraq's intentions or received any money.

The money was to have been passed through Iraqi-American businessman Samir Vincent and Tongsun Park, a South Korean lobbyist. Both are accused by federal prosecutors of attempting to bribe UN officials.

US Ambassador John Bolton told the Security Council:

"There were bribes; there were kickbacks; there was lax oversight from the Secretariat; and some member states turned a blind eye toward this corruption."

But he said the report rejected the notion that "business as usual" at the United Nations is acceptable, adding: "We need to reform the UN in a manner that will prevent another oil-for-food scandal."

Reuters

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House-to-house drive to clear New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—USING THE unmistakable threat of force, police and soldiers went house to house to try to coax the last 10,000 or so survivors of Hurricane Katrina to leave storm-shattered New Orleans because of the risk of disease from the putrid, sewage-laden floodwaters.

"A large group of young men armed with M-16s just arrived at my door and told me that I have to leave," said Patrick McCarty, who

owns several buildings and lives in one of them in the city's Lower Garden District. "While not saying they would arrest you, the inference is clear."

A frail-looking 86-year-old Anthony Charbonnet grumbled Wednesday as he locked his front door and walked slowly backward down the steps of the house where he had lived since 1955.

"I haven't left my house in my

life," he said as soldiers took him to a helicopter. "I don't want to leave."

Mayor C. Ray Nagin ordered law officers and the military late Tuesday to evacuate all citizens—by force if necessary. He warned that the combination of fetid water, fires and natural gas leaks after Hurricane Katrina made it too dangerous to stay.

In fact, the first government tests confirmed Wednesday that the amount of sewage-related bacteria in the floodwaters is at least 10 times higher than acceptable safety levels. Dr. Julie Gerberding, chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned stragglers not to even touch the water and pleaded: "If you haven't left the city yet, you must do so."

As of midday, there were no reports of anyone being removed by force. And it was not clear how the

order would be carried out.

Active military troops said they had no plans to use force. National Guard officers said they do not take orders from the mayor. And even the police said they were not ready to use force just yet. It appeared that the mere threat of force would be the first option.

"We have thousands of people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time," Police Chief Eddie Compass said. "Once they are all out, then we'll concentrate our forces on mandatory evacuation."

Mindful of the bad publicity that could result from images of weary residents dragged out of their homes at gunpoint, Compass said that when his officers start using force, it will be the minimum amount necessary.

"If you are somebody who is 350 pounds, it will obviously take more

force to move you than if you are 150 pounds," the chief said.

The stepped-up evacuation came as workers trying to get into the city to restart essential services came under sniper fire. More than 100 officers and seven armored personnel carriers captured a suspect in a housing project who had been firing on workers trying to restore cell phone towers, authorities said.

"These cell teams are getting fire on almost a daily basis, so we need to get in here and clean this thing up," said Capt. Jeff Winn, commander of the police SWAT team. "We're putting a lot of people on the street right now and I think that we are bringing it under control. Eight days ago this was a mess. Every day is getting a little bit better."

The police chief boasted that 7,000 more military, police and other law officers on the streets had

made New Orleans "probably the safest city in America right now."

Across miles of ravaged neighborhoods of clapboard houses, grand estates and housing projects, workers struggled to find and count corpses sniffed out by cadaver dogs in the 90-degree heat. The mayor has said New Orleans' death toll could reach 10,000. Already, a temporary warehouse morgue in rural St. Gabriel that had been prepared to take 1,000 bodies was being readied to handle 5,000.

Bob Johannessen, spokesperson for the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency has 25,000 body bags on hand in Louisiana.

Asked if authorities expected as many as 25,000 bodies, he said: "We don't know what to expect."

AP

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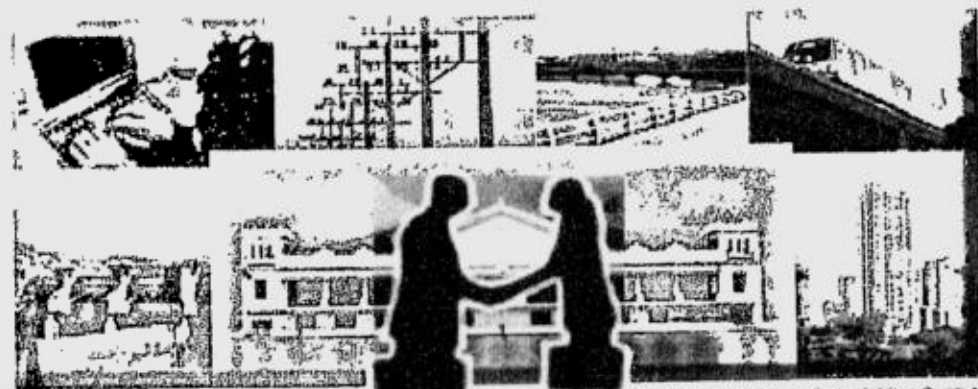
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TEMPORARY pumps move floodwaters through the repaired 17th Street canal levee in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina Sept. 7 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Huge pumps are sucking up the toxic soup that engulfed the city but it will take weeks to empty streets that will probably have to be razed because of the health risk.



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US marks 9/11 nagged by apparent vulnerability

WASHINGTON — AMERICANS mark the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks Sunday nagged by new burning questions about their readiness to confront a major disaster after the debacle of Hurricane Katrina.

Scenes of anarchy and neglect in the flooded southern city of New Orleans, where survivors spent hellish days waiting for troops and relief supplies, have revived a sense of vulnerability not felt here since 9-11.

Both critics and supporters of President George W. Bush are wondering what happened to the billions of dollars spent on civil defense since al-Qaida flew hijacked airliners into the World Trade Cen-

ter and Pentagon.

"If our system did such a poor job when there was no enemy, how would the federal, state and local governments have coped with a terrorist attack that provided no advance warning?" asked Republican Sen. Susan Collins.

Four years after the assaults that left nearly 3,000 people dead and the world's superpower reeling, Sept. 11 remains the defining moment for the United States in the new millennium.

It triggered wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, saddled US politicians with new criteria of toughness and fostered a "with-me-or-against-me" mentality that reshaped the diplomatic landscape and strained

alliances worldwide.

The rituals for New York will observe the now-familiar rituals Sunday: the minute of silence at 8:46 a.m. when the first plane struck the trade center's North Tower, the solemn reading of the names of the dead.

The only new wrinkle will be a Pentagon-sponsored "Freedom Walk" in Washington to honor US troops in Iraq in what critics called a blatant piece of political propaganda by the Bush administration.

But the country commemorating Sept. 11 this year will not be the same.

Its celebrated war on terror is officially billed as more of an ideological struggle with Islamic ex-

tremists; its drive for security now cloaked as part of a global campaign for democracy.

Thirty months of war in Iraq have left it eager to withdraw troops, not send them into battle. Diplomacy has become the byword of a government scrambling to mend fences and cover itself with multilateral consensus.

It's no accident that Karen Hughes, a close Bush confidante now charged with burnishing Washington's image abroad, is seeking to use Sunday's anniversary to also memorialize terrorist attacks elsewhere across the globe.

State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack confirmed that

Hughes was seeking ideas from US embassies abroad. "What this meant to show is that we are all in this fight against terrorism together," McCormack said.

Hurricane Katrina, which left thousands feared dead and hundreds of thousands homeless in the country's worst natural disaster, has also spotlighted changes here since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Whereas the Bush administration acted decisively with al-Qaida, it faltered in its response to Katrina. If 9-11 produced displays of world solidarity, the post-storm relief fiasco prompted expressions of disbelief and even ridicule.

Perhaps more fundamentally, Katrina provided the Republican

White House with the first real test of its elaborate civil defense program axed on a massive Department of Homeland Security. By all accounts, it failed miserably.

Experts such as James Carafano of the conservative Heritage Foundation looked at the response to Katrina and shuddered at the thought of a nuclear, chemical or biological attack that would leave tens or hundreds of thousands dead.

"We should learn from this tragedy whether we have the right kinds of resources and programs in place to provide an adequate national response to catastrophic disaster—either natural or man-made," Carafano said. **AFP**

Gaza gunmen kill Abbas advisor

GAZA CITY—THE SECURITY chaos blighting the Gaza Strip on Wednesday claimed its highest-profile victim when local strongman Mussa Arafat, an advisor to Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, was assassinated by militants.

Abbas led condemnation of the killing of Arafat, a cousin of the late Yasser Arafat, a murder which undermined calls for calm on the eve of Israel's departure from the overcrowded territory after a 38-year occupation.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz meanwhile recommended the departure of troops from

Gaza be brought forward by three days to Monday after soldiers guarding empty Jewish settlements shot dead a Palestinian teenager, while Egyptian forces prepared to take up their positions on the Gaza-Egypt border.

The Palestinian group the Popular Resistance Committees, in a statement late Wednesday, withdrew its earlier claim of responsibility for the killing of Arafat, saying its own spokesperson had been misinformed.

The armed wing of the umbrella group condemned the murder and denied any involvement in it.

In a telephone call earlier Wednesday to AFP, the group's spokesperson, known only as Abu Abir, said Arafat had been "eliminated" by one of the group's affiliates, the Salaheddin Brigades.

Arafat, feared by many for his brutal regime as head of national security, was shot 23 times by gunmen who laid siege to his Gaza City home before dawn.

After a nearly hourlong gunfight between the assailants and his bodyguards, he was shot in front of his family and then dragged into the street where gunmen continued to pump bullets into his body. **AFP**

Schwarzenegger to veto gay marriage bill

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA —Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that he will veto a bill that would allow gay marriages in California.

Schwarzenegger on Wednesday said the legislation, given final approval Tuesday by lawmakers, would conflict with the intent of voters when they approved a ballot initiative five years ago. Proposition 22 prevents California from recognizing same-sex

marriages performed in other states or countries.

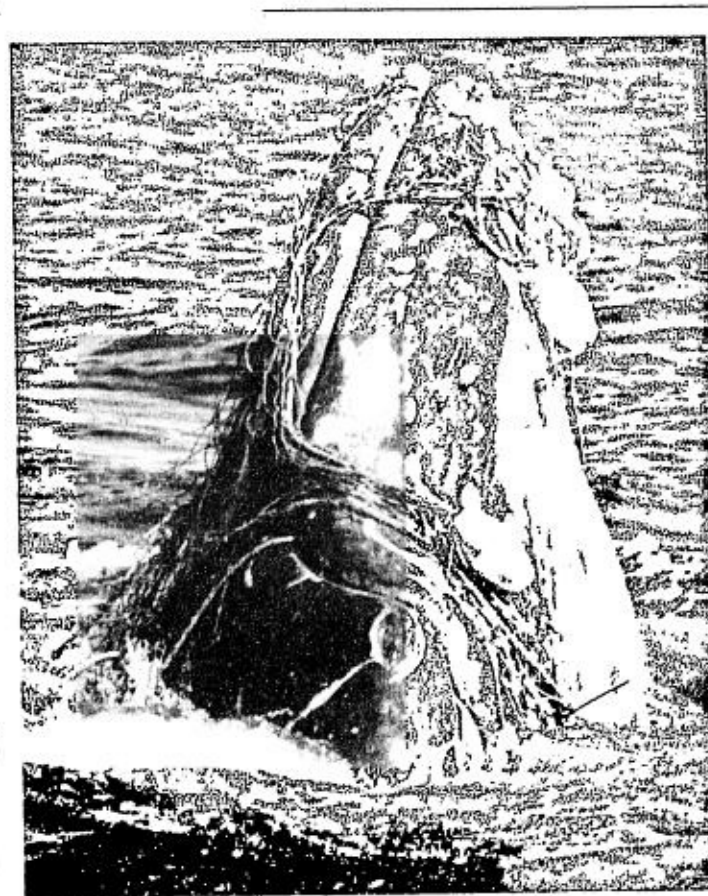
"We cannot have a system where the people vote and the Legislature derails that vote," the governor's press secretary, Margita Thompson, said in a statement. "Out of respect for the will of the people, the governor will veto (the bill)."

Despite his promised veto, Schwarzenegger "believes gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not

be discriminated against based upon their relationship," the statement said.

"He is proud that California provides the most rigorous protections in the nation for domestic partners," it added.

The Republican governor had indicated previously that he would veto the bill, saying the debate over same-sex marriage should be decided by voters or the courts. **AP**



ENTANGLED GIANT

A seven-meter humpback whale attempts to free itself after it became entangled in shark nets off Australia's Gold Coast, Sept. 8. A team of specialists cut free the marine mammal, which was believed to be about 1 year old, before it swam off toward the south. **AP**

Sony to offer advanced Walkmans

TOKYO—SONY CORP SAID ON Thursday it would sell advanced Walkman portable music players later this year, aiming to move out of Apple Computer Inc.'s shadow in a market the Japanese company created a quarter of a century ago.

The announcement comes hours after Apple unveiled the pencil-thin "iPod nano" digital player and a long-anticipated mobile phone that plays music in a bid to extend its domination of the market.

Sony, which created the portable music market 26 years ago with its now-legendary cassette-playing Walkmans, has lost out to Apple in the portable digital era as it focused on its mainstay CD and Mini Disc players.

Sony will offer two hard disk-based music players—one with a storage capacity of 20 GB and the other with 6 GB—and three flash memory-based players that will keep the existing models' perfume bottle appearance. **Reuters**

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US approved Saddam's biggest oil smuggling

By Claudia Parsons

UNITED NATIONS—THE SINGLE LARGEST oil consignment smuggled out of Iraq by Saddam Hussein under the UN oil-for-food program took place with US approval just weeks before the April 2003 invasion, according to a report published on Wednesday.

After a yearlong investigation of the oil-for-food program, the Independent Inquiry Committee blamed UN officials and the Security Council for mismanagement that allowed Saddam to divert more than \$10 billion from kickbacks and smuggling.

But it also faulted the United States and other Security Council members for ignoring violations of UN sanctions that were supposed to ensure all oil sales went through the UN program and the money was used to buy humanitarian goods for Iraqis.

The now-defunct oil-for-food program operated from late 1996 to 2003 to alleviate the impact on ordinary Iraqis of the sanctions, imposed in mid-1990 when Saddam invaded Kuwait.

While US Navy ships were patrolling the Gulf in February 2003, making a show of boarding and searching leaky dhows and small ships, they turned a blind eye to tankers carrying some \$54 million of Iraqi oil on Jordan's behalf, the report said.

A total of 7.7 million barrels of oil was smuggled through the Khor al-Amaya oil terminal in at least seven shipments in February and March 2003, it said.

The sales were arranged by a businessman in Jordan named "Mr. Shaheen" who told an Iraqi official he had "the Pentagon in one pocket and the CIA in the other." He was acting for Jordan, a close US ally.

The oil was bought at a heavily discounted price of around \$7 a barrel, the report said. If it had been sold at fair market value within the oil-for-food program it could have earned some \$200 million to buy humanitarian goods.

"The illegal sales of oil from Khor al-Amaya came at a staggering cost to the program in terms of potential revenue foregone," the report said.

The 1,000-page report showed shipping records from a tanker that lifted the oil, including voyage instructions for the ship's captain saying the US Navy was "already aware about your passage and itinerary."

Reuters

Car bomb blast kills 16 in southern Iraq

BASRA, IRAQ—A CAR BOMB shattered the relative peace of the southern Iraqi city of Basra after dark on Wednesday, killing 16 people and wounding 20 in a district packed with restaurants, officials said.

At least two children were among the dead carried away by rescuers from the popular Sayed restaurant. Police said a pick-up truck had exploded outside it. They found no evidence of a suicide attacker, they added.

Coming at the end of a day on which al-Qaida claimed a bomb attack that killed four US security guards on diplomatic duties in Basra, it was not clear who had brought such violence to the relatively calm and mainly Shiite Muslim south.

Though there have been tensions among rival Shiite militias and between armed groups and British occupying forces around Basra, major attacks on civilians of the sort associated with Sunni Islamist militants linked to al-Qaida are rare.

Early on Wednesday, four US security guards died when a bomb hit their vehicle near Basra, the US Embassy said in a statement. All four worked for a private security firm supporting the US Embassy office in Basra.

In April 2004, suicide bombers killed 73 people in blasts at four police buildings in and around Basra.

A flare-up in fighting was swiftly damped down last month between Shiite groups divided by attitudes to the US-backed, Shiite-led government and the new constitution it is presenting to a referendum in mid-October.

Violence by the minority Sunni Arab insurgents active in the north and west of Iraq has been relatively restrained in recent weeks. But opposition to a constitution that many Sunnis say may give too much autonomy to the oil-rich Shiite south, and passions raised by next month's trial of Saddam Hussein creates a risk of new blood-

shed, Iraqi and US military officials say.

Saddam has "confessed" to ordering executions and waging a campaign against Kurds in which thousands of people are said to have been killed, President Jalal Talabani said late on Tuesday. Talabani did not say whether Saddam had actually admitted to committing any crimes, or had merely acknowledged that he was head of state and commander in chief of the army at the time of various military operations.

"I met the investigator who questioned Saddam," he told Iraqiya state television in an interview late on Tuesday. "He said he had extracted important confessions from Saddam Hussein and he signed them."

Asked about the confessions, Talabani replied: "About the crimes he committed: he confessed to al-Anfal and the executions," adding that Saddam had said: "The orders were released by me."

Al-Anfal was a campaign against the

Kurds between 1986 and 1989 in which over 100,000 people are said to have been killed and many villages destroyed. Talabani is a Kurd.

"Saddam deserves a death sentence 20 times a day because he tried to assassinate me 20 times," he said, recalling his days as a Kurdish rebel leader fighting the Baghdad authorities.

Talabani's comments, on the eve of a visit to the United States where he will meet President George W. Bush, appeared to be part of an orchestrated move by the government to prepare Iraqis for Saddam's execution, expected to be by hanging.

The government said on Sunday Saddam's trial, on a single charge of mass killings in reprisal for a 1982 assassination attempt, would begin on Oct. 19. He said if Saddam were found guilty in this case, the court could dispense with the need to try him for other crimes—clearing the way for execution.

Reuters



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1 cup	flour	1 pc	egg, beaten
1/4 tsp	baking powder	1 Tbsp	Silver Swan soy sauce
1 kg	clams, steamed and removed from shells	1 cup	cooking oil
2 pc	lacatan banana, cut into small cubes	Dipping Sauce:	
1 tsp	ground pepper	4 Tbsp	Silver Swan cane vinegar
2 Tbsp	parsley, chopped	2 tsp	Silver Swan soy sauce
1/2 cup	cold water	2 cloves	garlic, minced
		1/4 tsp	ground pepper
		1 pc	siling labuyo, chopped

Procedure:

1. Combine the flour, baking powder, clams, ground pepper and parsley.
2. Add water, egg and Silver Swan soy sauce. Do not overmix.
3. Drop by spoonful in heated oil.
4. Combine ingredients of dipping sauce. Serve with the fritters.

Makes 4 servings.

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MACARONI-MANGO SALAD SUPREME

200 g	macaroni	1/4 cup	kinchay, minced
1 cup	ripe mango, diced	Dressing:	
2 pcs	crabstick, fried and cut into strips	3/4 cup	mayonnaise
1 pc	egg, hard-boiled, diced	1 tsp	sugar
1 cup	lettuce, shredded	1 tsp	salt
1 pc	red bell pepper, chopped	1/4 tsp	ground pepper
		2 tsp	Silver Swan sukaung puti

Procedure:

1. Cook macaroni following package directions. Drain.
2. Combine the mango, crabstick, egg, lettuce, red bell pepper, and kinchay.
3. Mix together the dressing ingredients. Add this to the mango-crabstick mixture.
4. Gently toss the two combined mixtures to the cooked macaroni. Mix well.
5. Chill and garnish with sliced tomatoes if desired before serving.

Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
30	34	68	17	12	20	14	46	34	25	21	44

Each serving is packed with vitamin A, thiamin and vitamin C. It is also rich in energy and protein.

*Based on July 1, 2005 prices

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September 16

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Payback

THE BEST-CASE SCENARIO PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo can look forward to is that her congressional allies will deliver Charter change before the one-year ban on new impeachment proceedings expires. Otherwise, she risks not only a revival of impeachment complaints in 2006 (since her own allies have appealed to the opposition to just try harder next time), she also risks having all those opposed to her refocusing on the question of legitimacy as the main campaign issue for the 2007 elections. If she does not have a new constitution by then, she will need to spend a lot to maintain her grip on Congress while being the lamest of lame ducks. The victory she has claimed for herself after the House of Representatives threw out the impeachment complaints did not only come at a high price but also requires her to keep on giving—to her allies.

As the President's spokespersons put it, "It's the economy, stupid." Indeed. And the question to ask is, what toll will the continuing costs of maintaining the political apparatus for presidential survival exact on the public purse?

Just the other day, the President signed a long-delayed executive order (No. 366) mandating a thorough examination of the existing structure of the executive branch. The EO calls for the preparation of a rationalization plan, and furthermore instructs that: "Except for newly created agencies, the hiring of additional personnel (permanent, temporary, contractual or casual), and the renewal of contracts/appointments of all employees hired on contractual, casual or temporary basis are hereby prohibited during the preparation of the Rationalization Plan."

There is, of course, the loophole permitting the packing of more political appointees into unspecified "newly created agencies," and leaving the horde of new appointments made at the behest of Ms Arroyo's congressional and gubernatorial allies untouched. All the new appointments will entail continuing expenses in terms of salaries, allowances and staff. The closeness of these appointees to the powers-that-be means they will be loath to subject themselves to belt-tightening or other measures when they've just begun to enjoy their new posts.

For the members of Congress, too, their continuing support has a price, the most obvious of which is the pork barrel. This year's General Appropriations Act sets aside P40 million per congressman and P120 million per senator, and next year's proposed budget keeps these allocations intact. All this comes on top of some very generous allocations from the Road Users' Tax to some lucky lawmakers. In the 2006 budget, the Office of the Vice President is being given a 55 percent increase, which can't hurt someone who wants to keep his loyalty; and the Commission on Elections, despite not having been cleaned up or in any way held accountable for the scandals that have engulfed it, will get a 134 percent increase in its budget. Government workers can also look forward to an additional P500 in their monthly take-home pay, even as those who risk being declared redundant in the reorganization can look forward to either a hefty retirement bonus, or, perhaps an extension of service, lest they help swell the ranks of anti-government demonstrators.

Amending the Constitution will also come at a price. There is a direct price, in that appropriations will have to be made, even if Congress undertakes the job all by itself, which it will not, unless the administration's constitutional consultative commission fails to take off. There will be even higher indirect prices, as governors begin to realize that federalism may cost them their jobs, and other proposals might seriously affect the status quo. We won't speculate as to the concessions some senators might insist on, should some of them decide to support unicameralism. And once—and if—opposition to Charter change on the President's terms pass Congress, there's the question of campaigning for ratification in a national plebiscite. Campaigns and plebiscites require lots of cash.

So it would be stupid, at this juncture, not to foresee that every possible expenditure of the government that can be tied to political paybacks (and political insurance) will be scrutinized and compared to what those funds, in these lean and hungry times, could have accomplished. To put things in perspective, consider the "nutri-noodle" feeding program of the government for next year. How much more extensive would it have been, if the political expenses to come weren't so necessary to ensure the President's survival in office?



Crime pays, House vote tells us

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN. FRESH FROM HER victory in the House of Representatives...er, Representatives, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on her critics to forget her sins and unite behind her. This is like somebody hitting you in the back and then telling you, "Let's be friends," so you won't hit back.

It is convenient for her to call a truce now, but first she must answer honestly the questions the people have been asking all this time: Did she cheat, lie and steal? Where is Virgilio Garcillano? Did she help him escape? What did she order him to do during the elections? These were the questions sought to be answered by the impeachment that was murdered by her cohorts in the House.

GMA wants a truce because she knows she may have won three rounds but the bout isn't over yet. There are many more rounds to go and she knows that the longer the bout goes, the weaker she gets and the stronger her opponents get.

She won the first round—the counting of certificates of canvass in Congress. She won the second round—the electoral protest in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. And she won the third round—the impeachment case. But there are many more rounds left and her opponents are not giving up.

The reason the people should not give up now is the shameful way the impeachment complaints were run over by the House railroad operated by her Rasputin. The people were insulted and made fools of.

Another reason is that that proceeding will teach our children that crime pays, that you can cheat, lie, steal and bribe people and get away with it. All you need is to pay enough people with enough money that doesn't belong to you anyway—and a strong stomach and a thick skin. It throws the principle of crime and punishment out the window.

But we must all prove that crime does not pay, even for presidents.

"For such a small woman she is so full of dirty tricks," said a pro-impeachment congressman. Indeed, if she had used her talent at manipulating money and people to run her government

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



well instead of for herself alone, we wouldn't be in this mess. All the resources of government and taxpayers' money were used for her survival. Good governance was forgotten. Everything was for "me, me, me!" Her close cohorts were harassed to put pressure and blandishments on congressmen so they wouldn't vote for impeachment. Billions were released for the pork barrel of anti-impeachment congressmen. Appointments were given to relatives of congressmen to convince them to vote against impeachment.

What are the people to do against such naked abuse of power? I think it is their duty to protest. If they don't, public officials will continue abusing them. Protest is a form of self-defense. If it is necessary to go out to the streets to show your protest, do it. Don't turn the other cheek. They will only slap it harder.

If the GMA forces think they have won, they have another think coming. Another people power is coming to sweep them away. Its first stirrings started the other day. Slowly, it will grow bigger until it becomes an irresistible force. What GMA did to her predecessor will be done to her. That's the Golden Rule in action.

Wait until the GMA administration implements the expanded value-added tax. It will raise the prices of everything and bring untold hardships to the people. Then watch the protest rallies grow.

Ironically, the Supreme Court is also to blame. It was the Court that looked for a legal excuse to make GMA president. It was the Court that dismissed the electoral protest of FPJ's widow that would have resolved the question as to who is the rightful president. And it was the Court which ruled that EVAT is constitutional despite its defects, paving the

way for its enforcement. Its enforcement will be the fuse that will ignite the simmering anger of the people into an explosion.

Alleged cheating in Mindanao during the 2004 presidential election has not yet been resolved, but here comes more charges of poll cheating, also in Mindanao, more particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) during the Aug. 8, 2005 elections. Mahid M. Mutilan, defeated gubernatorial candidate in the ARMM polls, denounced the cheating at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. He was accompanied by his defeated vice gubernatorial candidate, Ismael Abubakar, and Representatives Gerry Salapuddin of Basilan and Benasing Macarambon Jr. of Lanao del Sur.

Mutilan ran under the Ompia Party, a Mindanao-based political party. His principal opponent was Shariff Aguak Mayor Zaldy Uy Ampatuan, the official candidate of Lakas, who was anointed by Speaker Jose de Venecia despite the declaration by the President that the ARMM was a "free zone." Ampatuan was declared winner by the Comelec. Mutilan said there was widespread cheating and he filed an election protest.

Curiously, the cheating was similar to the cheating done during the 2004 presidential polls. Election returns were filled up even before the balloting. The blank poll returns, ballots and other paraphernalia were delivered to the precincts, Mutilan said, two days before the balloting despite an agreement that they be delivered only on the morning of election day, Aug. 8.

This early delivery was a ploy to cheat, according to Mutilan, so they could be filled up in advance. He said that 98 percent of registered voters in Maguindanao voted, whereas foreign observers and independent monitors said the turnout was only 30 percent.

There was massive disenfranchisement and vote substitution. Even Salapuddin was unable to vote because when he went to his precinct, somebody had already voted for him.

Rule of law and 'The Godfather'

WHEN LEGAL TECHNICALITIES WERE employed to suppress critical evidence during the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada, people mocked it as "legal gobbledygook." When legal technicalities were employed to block the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo, full-page ads called it a victory for the rule of law. What's the difference?

When pro-impeachment lawyers walked out of the Estrada trial, they were hailed as heroes acting out their moral indignation. When pro-impeachment congressmen walked out of the Arroyo hearing to protest the railroading of the proceedings, they were branded as unpatriotic and uncouth. What gives?

Abroad the newspapers report sightings of Elvis, the King from Graceland and beyond. Hereabouts the papers report sightings of Garci, the conspiring election commissioner fleeing disgrace in the homeland. How low can we go?

The congressional choking of the Arroyo impeachment is not the triumph of the rule of law, but of Mafia-style politics. Erstwhile anti-Arroyo congressmen mysteriously did not vote to uphold the impeachment charges? Look no farther than "The Godfather" movie, when a witness during a Senate hearing suddenly clammed up. Confused by the Church hierarchy's waffling on Ms Arroyo? The bishops were so big on the question of morality when it was Estrada's neck on the dock, but now they are suddenly reduced to quibbling that Ms Arroyo's culpability was just moral but not legal. Again recall how Don Michael Corleone so piously, so solemnly, received a papal citation.

The INQUIRER's editorial last Wednesday noted the recent appointments by President Arroyo that rewarded her loyal congressmen and some offers dangled to entice anti-Arroyo legislators to switch sides. On the floor of Congress, some congressmen were candid enough to say that they blocked the Arroyo impeachment because the President had been so "generous" to their district, referring I suppose to their overflowing gratitude for the flow of

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



pork-barrel money.

The biggest irony is that those full-page, paid ads supporting President Arroyo may be motivated less by love for the law and more by a longing for Arroyo's legal successor, Vice President Noli de Castro. It bespeaks a class bias by the affluent, educated Filipino, looking down on a duly elected Vice President because he is not one of their own, and who consider it unthinkable to have him as their leader.

The pro-Arroyo middle forces go to great lengths, worthy of intellectual contortionists, to explain why President Arroyo must not go. Estrada was ousted on the issue of his moral fitness but Ms Arroyo must stay despite the moral cloud, they say, because we need to be united. They claim to venerate the Constitution but will do everything to thwart Ms Arroyo's constitutional successor.

Well, guys, if national unity is valued in itself, and the rule of law says that the Vice President is next in line, why couldn't you do all that "uniting" behind Noli? Why embrace the Constitution only when it can be twisted to support Arroyo, but not when it categorically benefits her duly-elected Vice President?

Today the rule of law is nothing but mere rhetorical cover for what are essentially Machiavellian aims. I wonder if even those who now speak of it so loftily hold it "truly, madly, deeply" in their hearts.

The ideal of "a government of laws and not of men" is supposed to be the antidote to feudal governance. It is the modern response to backward notions of power. It is institutional, rather than personal; rule-based, rather than discretionary; and it aims to be just rather than

merely convenient. The rule of law is not an ideal that can be switched on and off, depending on what is politically expedient.

That precisely is the danger with deploying the rule of law as a rhetorical weapon. It is a weapon that is programmed to respect certain principles. Unlike guns that can be made to shoot any target chosen by the gun-wielder, the rule of law can command the wielder to shoot some but not others and only under certain conditions. That is why our Supreme Court had to provide juridically acceptable accounts of Cory Aquino's extra-constitutional People Power and Ms Arroyo's shortcut to Malacañang. Justice Robert Jackson, chief prosecutor at Nuremberg, said that the trials aimed "to establish incredible events with credible evidence" and exalted the tribunal as "the highest tribute that force ever paid to reason."

Those who exalt the crushing of the impeachment as the triumph of the rule of law may have missed the Constitution's Preamble. It states that "We, the sovereign Filipino people" seek the "blessings of... democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth...." Instead they find the rule of law in the deliberate misreading of the Constitution. But that has been the hallmark of this crisis over the Garci tapes, when being legalistic was mistaken for being just.

When President Arroyo gave her "I am sorry" speech for her repeated improper phone calls to an election official, she no sooner finessed it a week after with a "But I never admitted anything" speech. When her spokesmen said that the truth must be ascertained in the courts and not in the streets, we naively believed that she would allow the people and their elected deputies to hear the evidence against her. But President Arroyo's minions in Congress killed the impeachment charges and never gave the Senate a chance to examine the evidence. Gloria got her day in court. The Filipino people did not.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

People power has lost its sting

THE OVERWHELMING 158-51 VOTE OF THE House of Representatives on Tuesday, supporting the committee on justice's dismissal of all three impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo, decisively killed the campaign to dismiss her from office through the impeachment process.

The President described the House vote as a "grand display of political maturity." This is grossly inaccurate. The proceeding in the House reflected not "political maturity" but the political reality behind quashing impeachment action.

The President was closer to reality when she added, "The Filipino people mark a glorious day in history, when instead of forcing a president out of office through people power, they chose to keep a president through voting in the halls of constitutional democracy."

This reference to people power is illuminating. It brings into focus the reality that emerged from the process in the House: people power has become an impotent weapon for ousting a widely reviled President.

The impeachment debacle was a moment of truth for groups who had, until last Tuesday, clung to the illusion that they could depose the President through mass action if the process turned into the "closure" of a forum in which allegations of "stealing" the 2004 elections by the President could have been examined in a full impeachment trial.

In strictly procedural terms, the House decision impeccably hewed to the concept of majority rule, although the dispatch with which the justice committee dismissed the three complaints has been criticized. However, it has also been shown that one of the reasons the impeachment move failed was that its proponents were unable to muster the 79 votes needed to send the complaints, or any one of the three, to the Senate. When the fateful roll-call vote was taken last Tuesday, those pushing for impeachment failed to deliver the crucial six additional votes. When the vote was taken, the

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



deficit was even bigger (28 signatures). On the day of the showdown, the pro-impeachment camp was plagued by defections, for reasons not yet established. Why the Estrada group did not deliver the six crucial votes is one of the questions that emerged from the process in the House.

People power was one of the main casualties in a process where the people's representatives in the House decided to quash the complaints, defying pressure from the streets and threats of a people-power uprising. The dismissal of the complaints completed the first two stages of impeachment—the first in the committee on justice and the second in the plenary. It represented the triumph of procedures over the unruliness and arbitrariness of people power which summarily ousts officials without rules in an atmosphere of mob hysteria.

The people who marched from St. Peter's Church to the Batasan last Tuesday, led by former President Corason Aquino, thought they could spark another people-power conflagration if the House brought "closure" to the impeachment process with a decision to throw out the complaints. During the march, the participants had the omens that they did not have the critical mass to mount another people-power insurrection. According to press reports, fewer than 20,000 joined the march to the Batasan, smaller than the crowd that massed on July 25 for a demonstration during the President's State of the Nation Address.

Last Wednesday, another attempt to ignite people power fizzled, when, according to press reports, no more than 6,000 joined the protest rally

at the People Power monument on Edsa.

When after the House vote there was no spontaneous surge of the masses to Edsa, that was a sign that people power has been overworked and can no longer be used as a formula for ousting presidents for alleged wrongdoing. People Power I and II were spontaneous combustions of mass protest. When Jaime Cardinal Sin in February 1986 called on the people to protect the leaders of the mutiny against President Ferdinand Marcos—Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos—people rushed like a flood to Edsa. In People Power II, when the Senate, serving as an impeachment tribunal, decided on the closure of the brown envelope containing evidence on President Estrada's bank accounts, it triggered the spontaneous massing of outraged citizens at Edsa.

These demonstrations of outrage were sparked by issues that struck a chord with the mass constituency that composed the two Edsas. That element was lacking in the protests of the past two days. The issues of Edsa I and II cannot be used to fuel an insurrection against the Arroyo regime, simply because the issues in this crisis are different from those of Edsa I and II. The issues today have no resonance with a large segment of the population. Since the disclosure of the Garcilano tapes last June, regime opponents have been trying in vain to replicate the two Edsa experiences and to look for the magical "triggering event" which has eluded them.

One of the "truths" that emerged from the dismissal of the impeachment complaints is that people power has been drained of its mystique as a magic formula to oust much-demonized leaders. The indiscriminate use of people power to overthrow unwanted leaders has drained its potency as a weapon for effecting political change. Its potency has been depleted by frequent use.

The sputtering of protests after the House vote should be a rude reality check to Cory Aquino. She has been deserted by people power. And nothing could be more pathetic.

Fighting for 'milk'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



it isn't there yet.

More and more Filipinos perceive their lives as getting more difficult, as public opinion surveys find. There is a palpable sense of despair and hopelessness in the air, with so many Filipinos pinning their hopes on a visa that would take them out of the country and give them at least a fighting chance to eke out an alternative future.

The political crisis swirling around the President isn't helping any. In fact, I think there's a circular relationship between GMA's political troubles and the public mood. The slough of despond where we find ourselves in is feeding the crisis—crowding our minds with inutile anger and hopelessness, while paralyzing so many of us, preventing us from taking action or even choosing sides.

BRADDOCK provided his millions of fans with hope, his life story—so much like theirs—and boxing comeback—so compelling and triumphant—giving them reason to believe that life could get better for them, too. As he makes his way to the boxing ring for the championship fight against Max Baer, against whom he is seen as the hopeless underdog, he is greeted with absolute silence, until it is broken by a single voice cheering him on: "You can do it, Jimmy!"

The United States did not recover from the Depression simply because Braddock went on to win the heavyweight title. The recovery was due mainly to proverbial "political will," the determination of the Roosevelt administration to create more jobs and relieve the worst strains of the economic crisis on the poorest families through strategic interventions and Federal funding.

But certainly Braddock's rise from jobless bum to national hero helped spring the American psyche from the stranglehold of despair that settled in during the hard years. It's remarkable really, as the filmmakers recalled, how much his inspiring story had been forgotten, when it struck such a fundamental chord among his compatriots.

The question for us Filipinos, of course, is if and when such a folk figure will emerge, to inspire us and lift us out of the dark well where we find ourselves, looking up and eyeing the mouth of the well that allows but a feeble light in, barely illuminating our surroundings.

I'm sorry to say I don't think such a figure will emerge from our political class, especially given events of recent days. Even those who'd been pushing for the impeachment from both Congress and civil society had a hard time supplying a single, coherent message. Will Manny Pacquiao's winning his next bout manage to lift our spirits? For his and our sake, I hope history repeats itself!

WHAT makes "Cinderella Man" a truly inspirational movie is, of course, that it is true, that it happened to a real person, and that Braddock proved, for the rest of his life, that he was indeed a real decent human being. He stayed married to Mae for the rest of his life, and raised their children in the home they bought from the money he earned from his match with Baer. He started a business in the same docks where he labored as a day worker. And to top it off, he even served honorably in World War II!

There are, I am sure, many such men and women in our midst. Persons who live lives of integrity and simplicity, looking after their families as best they could, not cheating anyone of his or her due, and serving their country honorably and responsibly.

The trouble is that our standards for heroism and inspiration have since changed, such that a man like Braddock would not lift us the way celebrities do these days. We no longer see how a man could be a hero simply by fighting for "milk."

ars and other religious congregations from the Philippines, and the prohibition by the Constitution of the formation of new religious orders.

"The debates showed signs of dragging on forever because, although it appears strange considering the motives which started the Revolution, one-half of the members of the Congress were adherents of the friars. Eloquent speeches from each group were pronounced, but there never was a voting because both groups were afraid of the result of the balloting. Luna broke the situation with one of those tricks peculiar to his character and which made him famous later.

"He assembled all those delegates of the Radical faction who had confidence in him, advising them to keep away from the sessions of the Congress but requesting them to remain within call at a moment's notice. With the Radicals absent, the Conservatives constituted a majority during the sessions. Having made a careful count and thinking themselves sure of victory, the Conservatives asked for a vote while the few Radicals present registered a token opposition. The motion to call a vote was carried. Then, at the precise moment of balloting, Luna immediately called all his adherents to enter the session hall en masse, to the surprise of the confident Conservatives. The voting was taken and we won, if I remember right, by one or two votes. In this manner, a provision in our Constitution for the separation of Church and State was secured."

In the recent impeachment voting, the same strategy was being used to get the magic number 79, but then some people stayed away from the session hall, others turned back on their commitment to vote in support of impeachment. Now a historian will have to wait and hope that some congressmen will leave their memoirs to complete our history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Masaya'

LAST WEDNESDAY, I WROTE ABOUT HOW THE LOCAL and international press have often written up stories claiming we're the happiest people in Asia, if not the world, based on their misinterpretation of "happiness surveys" conducted in different countries. This year alone, Time Asia and the Sept. 4 issue of the widely circulated Chinese weekly Yazhou Zhoukan (Asiaweek) featured "happy Filipinos" as theme stories, again based on these surveys.

Yet, the Social Weather Stations (SWS) which conducted the local surveys on happiness, says that we actually scored only about average, ranking

31st among the 65 countries surveyed. So what is it that gets the world, and we Filipinos, wanting to believe we are the happiest people on the planet?

Happy pessimism?

I bought my copy of Yazhou Zhoukan in Singapore so Pinoy happiness was uppermost on my mind the past few days, including an anticipation of returning back to a happy Philippines. But when I got into a taxi at the Naia, little did I know that I was going to have to endure an hour of whining from the taxi driver: about gasoline prices, traffic, the rains, EVAT, a bad cough.

The driver was not atypical. We all whine constantly (I sometimes think we've even reached the point where we enjoy bad news). The Germans have a term, *schadenfreude*, to mean, loosely, the good feeling you get when something bad happens to others. I think we should coin a word for the good feeling we get whenever something bad happens to us. (Or do we already have one in English: masochism?)

Skilty Labastilla, a master student at the Ateneo, contributed a Youngblood column last Monday with the title "Pessimistic but happy," suggesting that perhaps the Filipino survives because we anticipate the worst. I guess that's one way of putting it.

But the "happiness" portion remains elusive. Let's return to my taxi driver. Adding to the agony of the trip, as he went through his long litany of trials and tribulations, the radio was blaring out *masaya* but sticky tunes like "Chicken Dance," which still, well, dance in my head right now. From time to time, Mr. Taxi Driver sang along, complete with chickens clucking, which provided me with some comic relief from his complaining. So, indeed, here was a man who was apparently not very happy with his life, but who was obviously *masaya*.

Merriment

The SWS surveys on happiness actually ask people to rate themselves as "*atalagang masaya*" (very happy), "*medyo masaya*" (fairly happy), "*hindi masyadong masaya*" (not very happy) and "*atalagang hindi masaya*" (not at all happy). (The English terms are from the SWS.)

Masaya is the word used here, and certainly, it's the closest we can get to the English word "happy." But when you think hard about it, *masaya* isn't exactly the same as happiness. Jose Panganiban's classic *Diksiyunaryo Tesauro Pilipino-Ingles* defines *masaya* as "Merry, gay. Cheerful."

I will agree then, we are a *masaya* people. This is the face the world sees among the eight million Filipinos living overseas. Just think of the hundreds of Filipina domestic helpers congregating in shopping centers and plazas in Hong Kong and Singapore. They look *masaya*.

Foreigners who visit us also leave with the impression that we are a merry people, from the the hustle and bustle of our streets, from our fiestas, even from our wakes with all the carousing and eating and card games.

The wakes provide us with a clue to the Filipino "happiness." Skilty's description of Filipino pessimism is one of an anticipatory coping mechanism. Because we expect the worst, we are "happy" with whatever happens. I'd suggest our "happiness" (in the sense of *masaya*) is itself a coping mechanism. We joke, we laugh, albeit nervously, in times of crisis to assure ourselves all will be well.

But is all that being happy or being *masaya*? There are real differences between "happiness" and "*saya*." Note how we can be happy alone, but not *masaya*. *Saya* is generated, and celebrated, collectively. "*Saya* is being entertaining, and entertained, all in exuberance.

But there's a downside to all this *saya*. I feel *saya* is the product of a society where so much is uncertain. *Masaya* therefore celebrates the moment; it is fleeting, a burst of emotion best captured by that feeling we have when a loved one returns home after a long absence.

On the other hand, the English "happiness" generally means satisfaction with life, almost an individual peace with self. Happiness lingers on; to be happy is to say one envisions a full life in the next few years. Happiness then is the feeling one has when a loved one returns home, and you know he or she won't need to leave again for a long time.

'Saya' and happy

We are a *masaya* people, sometimes to a fault. Even in the worst of times, we will insist on throwing parties, on splurging the little we have left. As *masaya* goes, we live for the moment.

Note that there's a gendered aspect to this. The Yazhou Zhoukan magazine had two photographs in its lead article about happy Filipinos: one of a group of men drinking while floodwaters swirled around them, and another of musicians performing with a large crowd of onlookers. Both photographs were striking in that almost everyone in the photos was male.

We—Filipinos and non-Filipinos—do tend to forget that our merry-making often involves self-indulgent males. The Yazhou Zhoukan photograph of the drinking men doesn't show the women; they were probably at home preparing the food. They were probably the ones, too, who shelled out the money for their jobless husbands.

Male *saya* is more often self-centered; even when done with a group, as when treating the *barkada* to a drinking spree, it is to assert one's status. The Filipina, on the other hand, derives her *saya* from seeing her husband or her children happy (and not just *saya*).

(I'm generalizing here about the Pinay. I was just thinking of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's *masayang* proclamation, after the congressional circus, that we have just witnessed a "glorious day" in Philippine history. Note here another possible use of *masaya*: one can tell the President, "*Masaya ka!*"—a way of indicting her *schadenfreude*, her gloating over the nation's misery.)

I digress. Gloria moments aside, we need to find a way to integrate *saya* and happiness. Certainly, there is much to admire in our ability to be merry amid adversity, in being able to infect others with our good cheer so we can all better weather our many crises. But we need to recognize, too, how ephemeral *saya* can be; eventually, we need to buckle down and get things done, even if it means less merriment.

Saya is making the best out of the worst, for the moment. But we need to extend this sense of *saya* to being able to think, "Our country, our children, deserve more." *Saya* should be one of the means toward a goal of happiness, rather than just a coping, almost masochistic, mechanism to deceive ourselves into believing we are a happy people.

WHEN A REPORTER ASKED BOXER JAMES J. Braddock what it was he was fighting for, Braddock's simple answer was: "Milk." None of the reporters got its significance, but a scene early in the movie "Cinderella Man" explains it.

It's Depression-era America, and after a string of bad luck, including breaking his right hand, James Braddock, the "Bulldog from Bergen (New Jersey)," is, like millions of working-class Americans, teetering on the edge. He wakes up before sunrise just to beat other men for a day's work in the docks. When his wife asks him to pick up the milk on their doorstep, he finds instead an empty bottle and a note demanding payment. "No problem," chirps Braddock's wife Mae, taking a bottle with about half a glass of milk and diluting it with tap water, enough for their three children.

The story of the Braddocks, if you must know, gets worse. As it does for America. But "Cinderella Man" is also the story of Braddock's remarkable recovery, his miraculous rise from a jobless, starving bum to a heavyweight boxing champ. He becomes in the process a folk hero who inspires his nation because "every time he stands up to an opponent, he is standing up for the millions just like him battling to take care of their families and keep alive their sidelined dreams."

This true story, a story that had been largely forgotten except by real boxing aficionados, is indeed moving and inspiring. But I wonder if there was not a bigger, deeper reason for the timing of its theatrical release locally. I understand that "Cinderella Man," despite largely favorable reviews, failed to ignite at the box office in the United States, though I think the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina might put Americans in a more receptive mood for a movie about redemption and resurrection.

IT struck me, watching scenes of the Depression—the crowds of men desperately clamoring for a day's wage, the squalor of the squatter colony called "Hooverville" that sprung up in Central Park, Mae and the kids tearing apart a billboard for wood to burn for heat—that the country might be headed for such a scenario, if

Trickery at the Malolos Congress

MALolos IS BEST REMEMBERED FOR THREE things: first, it produces one of the best *ensaymadas* in the country; second, we remember a group of Filipino women there, immortalized by Jose Rizal in an equally famous letter, who fought for the right to expand their minds and lives by learning Spanish, a move opposed by the Spanish friars who wanted them condemned to ignorance; third, we have the Malolos Congress that actually met in nearby Barasoain Church because the Malolos *convento* was used as the residence and headquarters of Emilio Aguinaldo.

The recent marathon session of Congress, the longest in its history, to decide on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo reminded me of an equally interesting story of voting in the Malolos Congress on the issue of the separation of Church and State. And this month, the annual commemoration of the opening of the Malolos Congress has an added contemporary dimension because of the vote against the impeachment complaint and the news that our present Constitution and form of government need to be changed.

When the Malolos Congress is remembered and eulogized each year, we are reminded that it was this body that ratified the Declaration of Independence from Spain made on June 12, 1898 in Cavite and that it drafted and adopted what our textbooks describe as the Malolos Constitution. There is a long narra table now in the Central Bank that is believed to be the table on which this document was signed. As a historian who appreciates artifacts, I would dearly wish this to be true, but in the absence of solid documentation, what we have, at best, is an urban legend.

On a similar note, last weekend there was a commemoration of the end of World War II in the residence of the US ambassador in Camp John Hay, Baguio. Originally built as the summer residence of the US high commissioner, it was completed in 1940 and was only used for a year be-

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



cause it was then taken over by the Japanese high command in the Philippines. Toward the end of the war, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita stayed in this building not knowing that it would also be the venue for the formal surrender of the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces on Sept. 3, 1945. This has been captured on canvas in a 1951 painting by Fernando Amorsolo that now hangs above the fireplace in a formal but very pleasant living room.

One journalist who wrote about the event didn't do his research and claimed that on the great narra dining table in the residence, the instrument of surrender was signed. Well, we were told that the makeshift table was made by joining two ping-pong tables and covering this with tablecloth. So much for historical relics.

Now that I have embarked on research to determine whether the table in the Central Bank is indeed the one on which the Malolos Constitution was drafted, signed and adopted, I have come across a reference in La Senda del Sacrificio, the memoirs of Gen. Jose Alejandrino, regarding voting in the Malolos Congress. The story is quite amusing and gains contemporary relevance because of the recent voting on the impeachment of Ms Arroyo. Alejandrino wrote:

"Antonio Luna also became a member of Congress. There he affiliated himself with the faction which we can call Radical. This faction was formed almost spontaneously when the celebrated debates started in Congress over the separation of Church and State, the expulsion of the fri-

OPINION

Gossip and intrigue in PDI columns

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION regarding two articles written by two columnists in the INQUIRER. One was written by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan (Political Tidbits) on Sept. 6 and the other was written by Vic Agustin (Cocktales) on Sept. 5. The first article, quoting Manuel Morato, stated that I used the special relationship of my father to Hacienda Luisita to continuously poison the mind of Cory Aquino. The second accused me of funneling government funds to our own NGOs.

I have known former President Corazon C. Aquino to be a woman of great intelligence and integrity. She is a woman tested and honed by pain, especially in the dark days of martial law. She makes her decisions based on prayerful discernment. She is our icon for democratic leadership. She will not allow anyone to poison her mind. My father is Rizalino "Nene" Juliano.

Wanted: legitimate vice president

IN HIS COLUMN, "TRUTH AND PRAGMATISM" (PDI, 8/21/05), Randy David wrote: "Impeachment would pave the way for the succession of Vice President Noli de Castro. Though he is not exactly the alternative leader the public has in mind, if it is shown that he was not a beneficiary of the electoral fraud that made Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo president, I do not think that the country would object to him."

However, there is a strong basis to believe that De Castro benefited, along with Ms Arroyo, from the massive cheating in the 2004 elections. For instance, in Cebu alone, the canvassing by Congress gave Ms Arroyo more than a million votes over Fernando Poe Jr., and to De Castro just a little more than 800,000 votes over former Sen. Loren Legarda. These were actually their winning margins nationwide.

Former Sen. John Osmeña has dis-

Godofredo is his brother. He worked in Central Azucarera de Tarlac as personnel manager and retired from Jose Cuajungco and Sons as vice president. He died five years ago. Please allow him to rest in peace. It is unfortunate that the INQUIRER has been used as a tool to malign the reputation of both my father and former President Aquino.

The Community Organizers Multiversity will respond to the allegations of Agustin. Its financial records are open to the public and they are in order. It is registered with the Philippine Council for NGO Certification. I would like to state for the record that I have never funneled any funds from the DSWD to CO Multiversity, nor asked other government agencies to do the same.

I have chosen to share information that will help people see the truth about the governance of the Arroyo

administration. A consequence of this option is a vicious campaign to destroy my reputation and credibility. I will accept criticism and be accountable for things I have done, but if it involves friends and, more so, members of my family, and most especially my late father, I think it quite unfair and unkind. Instead of enlightening and edifying the mind of the reader, s/he peddled gossip and intrigue, which belong to sordid tabloids rather than in a respectable newspaper such as yours.

—CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN, former secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development

Holiday exposed gov't ineptness

THE DECLARATION OF AUG. 29 AS A holiday was both too vague and awfully late for useful public information. The Sunday morning news said it was a holiday. The report was qualified in the evening's TV reports that the holiday would apply only to schools and government employees.

Not everybody read or heard either news. And so, since there had been no holiday announcement from their employers the Friday or Saturday immediately preceding, countless private sector employees woke up early and spent for fares the following Monday, only to be told to go home when they reached the workplace.

If the government flops in so simple a matter as declaring a holiday, one wonders where it does not.

—RUDY L. CORONEL, Golden Country Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

We believe that the Supreme Court, acting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, should hasten the hearing of Legarda's electoral protest against De Castro so that the people would know the truth. The successor to the presidency after Ms Arroyo should be legitimate, otherwise there would be no end to our country's political instability.

—LEILANI JARDINIANO, Coconut Street, Greenwoods Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal

Cory's task

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO said she was disappointed by how the impeachment process was conducted. She should be the last to complain, since this is the kind of democratic process that is allowed by the Constitution that she herself strongly backs up and doesn't want changed. Instead, she opts for a regime change.

Experience has shown that regime changes do the Philippines very little help. She gloats about Edsa People Power I, but all we got after that was press freedom; the rich became richer and the poor became poorer.

On the other hand, in China, where the press is not so free, the economy has boomed. This just shows that press freedom does not necessarily go hand in hand with a country's economic growth.

The way I see it, the post-Marcos era has given only the freedom for too many political cooks to spoil the economic broth.

It would serve Cory Aquino well to shut up. Or, if she is really concerned about the poor, she should look into the Hacienda Luisita massacre. And she should also teach her daughter Kris to act her age. —Geo Alcala, Jiamusi University, Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province, China (via e-mail)

I have been a strong supporter of Cory Aquino and even fasted for her during trying times when she was president. Now I can't understand her and where she is coming from.

Calling on people to join her to support the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo without following the rule of law is out of order. I lived through the Marcos era. If Ninoy Aquino suffered and she suffered, we all did suffer.

When she became president, she was not perfect. She could not even control her own kin. Was she honest? That question was being asked by so many then. Thus we had so many coup d'états then.

During Joseph Estrada's time, who led the people power uprising? According to

one story I've heard, Gloria Arroyo took her oath of office in January 2001 in haste, and it was also Cory who encouraged and was behind Estrada's ouster.

Now it's President Arroyo she wants to oust from the presidency, again with the use of people power. The majority of the people—and I was one of those who fought during the People Power I and II revolts—are now tired of it. We are sad that the development of the economy is being hindered.

I will support President Arroyo so she can finish her term. If I have to campaign for that, I will. I truly believe that if God wants her to lead, then she would remain in office. My prayer to God is that all those who would like to destroy this country and destroy people would fail and that their plans would backfire. —MALOU JOPILO, Bangkal, Makati (via e-mail)

Cory Aquino now is very active in politics to help our country. I wish she would be more active in a land reform program to help the landless people. If she is really sincere in wanting to help our nation, she must start in her backyard, by allowing her vast tracts of land to be covered by land reform.

Maybe she does not like President Arroyo because Ms Arroyo has plans to carry out the land for the landless program strictly and her hacienda will be affected.

Come on, Cory, share your hacienda with the poor people. Let the law prevail. You are trying to divert the attention of the Department of Land Reform and the people. Why not have an Inter-Faith Mass for the Land Reform Program of the government? —RAUL RATUNIL, 4449 Boyar Avenue, Long Beach, California (via e-mail)

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Question of the Week

Do you agree with the majority vote in the House of Representatives that upheld the justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against President Arroyo?

Senders of the best 20 texts as published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an 'Inquirer Shirt'!

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DA chief urges use of windmills in bid to fight gas prices

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Windmills, solar-powered pumps, and organic fertilizers.

These are the solutions suggested by Agriculture Secretary Domingo Pangniban to farmers in Central Luzon for them to cope with the skyrocketing costs of gasoline and diesel for their irrigation needs and of synthetic fertilizers for their crops.

"Our farmers who use gasoline and diesel in their irrigation pumps are greatly affected by the continuing increases in prices of oil products. That's why we have to use windmills in the ricefields that are two to three hectares so that our farmers will no longer have to use oil-consuming motorized equipment," he told officials and employees of the Department of Agriculture regional office here on Tuesday.

Panganiban said the cost of a windmill is around P18,000, which, he added, is a small price to pay to conserve on irrigation expenses. He said solar power technology is already available and can also be used by farmers.

He said his department has been closely working with the Department of Energy to promote the use of ethanol found in cassava, sugarcane and corn and of bio-diesel extracted from coconuts.

Panganiban also called on local governments to help the DA in the implementation of its conservation program.



Farmers in Candaba town have been urged to set aside their hand tractors and use their carabaos (water buffalo) instead in plowing their fields.

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo said that while farmers own hundreds of carabaos, they tend to use their hand tractors locally known as "kuliglig" in plowing their fields.

"If our grandparents and parents harvested well bred rice and melon using just carabaos and simple traditional farm tools, why can't we do the same? We should go back to basics during this time of oil crisis and help our country by setting aside the fuel-consuming tractors and using our carabaos to till our farms," he said.

He said the skyrocketing costs of oil products require everyone to go back to basics. Instead of riding the trailer-equipped hand tractors, people should just walk, he said.

More nursing schools in provinces expected

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—DUE TO THE INCREASING demand for Filipino nurses abroad, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is expecting that the surge of nursing schools in Metro Manila will spill into the provinces.

Dr. Magdalena Jasmin, CHED Cordillera regional director, said the attractive compensation packages in foreign hospitals have remained to be the main attraction for the exodus of the country's nurses overseas.

She said this bright prospect for nurses is seen to remain "in the next 20 years" as CHED national officials have yet to entertain the idea of imposing a moratorium on new nursing schools to prevent a glut of graduates.

Appearing before a media forum here on Wednesday, Jasmin said the Cordillera alone is having its own version of a nursing boom as 13 schools are already offering nursing courses amid a regional economy that is predominantly based on agriculture and mining.

But she said the increase in the number of nursing students in the region has sparked a debate common to all nursing schools in the country—the taking up of nursing as a second course for professionals and the continuing move

of other Asian countries to compete for nursing jobs abroad.

She said medical doctors, teachers, government employees and even lawyers are now taking up nursing, prompting the CHED to classify them as "second degree course takers."

"Considering the daily work these professionals have to attend to, some of them have asked for certain exemptions," Jasmin said. "But that is not allowed. They must take nursing as a regular four-year degree course."

She said the CHED issued a memorandum for all nursing schools in 2002 that no special program should be offered to professionals taking up nursing except for those who are enrolled in deregulated schools.

She said the government must also be wary of the move of other

Asian countries to improve the English proficiency of their nursing graduates so that they, too, can avail of the vast market for nurses abroad.

Filipino nurses enjoy a preference abroad because of their ability to communicate well in English, Jasmin said.

But she warned that such competitive edge is now being threatened as other countries have realized that they should exert more efforts to develop their foreign language skills to become globally competitive.

In fact, she said, some of these countries, like South Korea, are sending their students to the Philippines to enrich their communications skills and boost their marketability for foreign employment. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Oriental Mindoro power plant ready to operate

CITY OF CALAPAN—POWER ONE Corp., a new independent power producer (IPP) in Oriental Mindoro, has advised the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormecco) that it is now ready to operate its first 5.5-megawatt power plant.

The plant will reduce Napo-

cor's missionary losses in the island by P240 million a year, the company said in a statement.

Power One earlier announced that it expected to operate its second 3.5-megawatt engine by early September.

"By yearend, the firm expects to provide 9 megawatts of electric power to solve recurring power out-

ages and brownouts that have been adversely affecting the province's economy and households since June 2004," the statement said.

Power One and its project company, Mid-Islands Power Generation, took over the old Napocor diesel power plant in April this year and undertook a P100-million rehabilita-

tion and upgrading project to raise the plant to its full capacity of 9 MW.

Power One said it can initially produce 2.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, which will increase to 4 million kwh by November, in time to meet the expected extra load of the province in December. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

2 hurt in landmine blast

COTABATO CITY—Two soldiers, including an Army lieutenant, were injured when a landmine went off in Barangay Danias in Tampakan, South Cotabato, Wednesday morning. Insp. Jessie Ramos, Tampakan police chief, identified the victims as Lt. Eduardo Florentino and his driver Pfc. Jimmy Lucas. The two soldiers were on their way to their base in Tampakan aboard a military jeep when the explosion occurred. Ramos said the explosive was planted along a dirt road. The military believes the New People's Army planted the landmine.

Edwin Fernandez and Jeffery Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bonok-Bonok Feast



SURIGAO CITY—This city will celebrate its 6th Bonok-Bonok Festival with a gathering of street-dancers from all over the country. The affair, according to officials, will be like the Kadayawan, Kaamulan, Maskara, Ati-Atihan rolled into one big festival. Today (Sept. 9), delegates from the provinces of Camarines Sur, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental,

Leyte and Surigao del Sur and from the cities of Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Tangub and General Santos gather here for the street-dancing. Tomorrow (Sept. 10), will be the celebration of the Feast of San Nicolas de Tolentino. There will also be the Pasayan (Shrimp) Festival, where organizers will try to make a world record by cooking (saute-style) half-a-ton of shrimp. The city is known for its abundant seafood.

PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 charged with murder

CALAMBA CITY—Police have filed murder charges against three bodyguards of this city's vice mayor and two others for the killing of a policeman during a drinking spree here last Tuesday, police said. Supt. Roland Bustos, Calamba police chief, said they filed murder charges against Ladislao Castillo, Fernando Geca and Michael Manalig—all security aides of Vice Mayor Pursing Oruga, at the city prosecutor's office last Thursday for the killing of SPO1 Rufino Maglinao. Also charged were Jimmy Castillo and Resty Mamalayan. He said Maglinao's sons saw the suspects shoot their father after an altercation during a drinking session at the lawman's residence in Christopher II Subdivision in Barangay Mayapa.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lucena protesters rally



LUCENA CITY—Some 200 militant activists held a protest rally here yesterday assailing the House's rejection of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. The protesters, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Quezon, marched around the city and held a noise barrage in downtown Lucena. Leng Jucutan, Bayan-Quezon chair, said they would proceed to Manila to join protest actions.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Garci flight leaves local poll protest cases in limbo

By Artha Kira Paredes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE FLIGHT OF FORMER Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano has left problems for local officials who have election protests awaiting resolution from the poll body.

A Comelec *en banc* resolution promulgated on Aug. 31 which dismissed an election protest filed by losing Tineg, Abra mayoral candidate Tony Benware, was signed by former Commissioners Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona, four other commissioners and Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

"At the time *na na*-promulgate [By the time it was promulgated], [Garcillano] was no longer connected with Comelec," lawyer Raul Casipit, Benware's counsel, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Garcillano, the official identified as the man who allegedly rigged the results of the 2004 presidential elections in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Barcelona were not reapp-

ointed by the President this year.

Wanted man

"As of June 9, they [Garcillano and Barcelona] were no longer commissioners ... excluded *dapat ang dalawa* [they should have been excluded]," Casipit said.

The other signatories were Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioners Rufino Javier, Mehol Sadain, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr.

Garcillano has been missing since the second week of June when the recordings of wiretapped conversations allegedly between him and Ms Arroyo generated public interest.

The five committees in the House of Representatives jointly investigating the so-called "Garci tapes" in relation to election fraud have issued an arrest warrant against Garcillano.

The resolution acted on a motion for reconsideration filed by Benware appealing the Comelec's Feb. 18, 2005 decision that denied his petition to annul the proclamation of

Tineg Mayor Edwin Crisologo and to declare as illegal the proceedings of the board of canvassers of Tineg.

Signed the resolution

Casipit said it was possible that Garcillano and Barcelona signed the resolution between Feb. 23, when the motion was filed, and June 8, before the lapse of their appointments.

He said Benware's camp is preparing the pleadings to question the resolution bearing the signatures of Garcillano and Barcelona.

"*Kung kailan pinirmahan* [When it was signed] is beside the point. The presumption is that they signed on the date of promulgation. When you say 'promulgate,' *may kapangyarihan o karapatan pumirma ang taong pumirma* [the one who signed the document has the authority or right to do it]," Casipit said.

The INQUIRER tried to confirm the actual date that Garcillano signed the resolution but this correspondent failed to reach lawyer Josefina de la Cruz of the office of the clerk of the commission.

Camarines, Taiwan county plan trade pact

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—A SISTERHOOD pact establishing a development partnership in the areas of information technology and agribusiness has been signed between the province of Camarines Sur and Hsinchu County, the so-called Silicon Valley of Taiwan, according to Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr.

The governor said he and Hsinchu Gov. Cheng Yuan Chin signed the economic pact last week at the Hsinchu Congress Hall with representatives of the Camarines Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Taiwanese Chamber of South Philippines as witnesses.

"Taiwan and the Philippines have had continuous interchanges in economic as well as cultural activities that have endured for centuries, which can now be further cultivated and enhanced for the common benefit of the province and Hsinchu County through

the accord," Villafuerte explained.

He said the Camarines Sur delegation and its Taiwanese counterpart had conducted exploratory talks on the participation of Taiwanese investors in the development of the five-hectare Information Technology Park inside the 118-hectare Capitol Complex here.

He said the Philippine Export Zone Authority-approved Information Technology Park had been targeted by Taiwanese investors as expansion area wherein it was expected to bring in million-dollar investments here.

Villafuerte said the province of Camarines Sur was ready to provide the infrastructure requirements of the Information Technology Park using fiber optics technology and uninterrupted power supply.

He said the Taiwanese investors had registered their interest in ex-

panding here because of limited land resources in Hsinchu County, which is only about one-fourth in land area of the Camarines Sur province.

Villafuerte said the provincial government also offered the Taiwanese investors the development of some 100,000 hectares of idle lands in several towns into tea plantations and other export crops that could bring in more dollars.

He added that Hsinchu County and Camarines Sur have almost the same climate, in which the tea grown in Hsinchu could be grown here.

The province, the governor said, has some 500,000 hectares of idle lands at the disposal of the provincial government under the national government's Agribusiness Land Development Program. Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



WORKING MOM

Mary Inuidan carries her 7-month child Jojo as she sells vegetables at the Kiangnan market in Ifugao. Earning income for the family is often an added chore for women.

EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

MADAME PRESIDENT: GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

We thank you and Vice-President Noli de Castro for taking decisive measures related to the urban poor, particularly on the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

The SHFC has been registered and will be operational on October 15, 2005. NHMFC has also implemented some reforms on the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) such as the scrapping of Circular 031.

Much more needs to be done, such as, the appointment of Atty. Miriam Quizon as SHFC President which was promised by then Housing Secretary Michael Defensor. Her appointment will ensure the proper implementation of SHFC as we all desire.

In the meantime, we fully support your plea: that we should all remain on track and go about the business of good governance, that despite the political crisis, we should all continue to give everyone, especially the poor, the service that they deserve and need in this most critical time.



National Congress of
CMP Originators and Social Development
Organizations for Low Cost Housing

Philippine Undertaking for
Social Housing (PUSH)

CMP Peoples Organizations

NATIONAL PEACE CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH 2005

Theme: *Serbisyo at Reporma tungo sa Kapayapaan*



'Makibahagi sa Paghubog ng Isang Payapa at Progresibong Bansa'

Noong nakaraang taon, aking idineklara sa pamamagitan ng Proklamasyon Blg. 675 ang buwan ng Setyembre bilang Buwan ng Pambansang Kamalayang Pangkapayapaan, o ang National Peace Consciousness Month. Ito ay paggunita at pagkilala sa mga mahahalagang pangyayaring naganap sa buwan ito sa ating kasaysayan, kaugnay ng ating pagsisikap na matamo ang minimithing kapayapaan.

Sa gitna ng mga suliranin at krisis, hindi natitinag ang administrasyon sa layunin nitong wakasan sa lalong madaling panahon ang madugong lahanan ng pamahalaan at mga rebeldeng grupo. Ito ay isa sa Sampung Agenda na siyang batayan ng aking pamamahala bilang Pangulo. Kaakibat ng layuning ito ang pagpapatupad ng mga batayang serbisyo at reporma na tumutugon sa ugat ng hidwaan at karahasan sa ating lipunan.

Serbisyo at Reporma: punla ng epektibo at mabuting pamamahala. Sa bagay na ito, mahalagang marinig at makamit ang partisipasyon ng bawat sector, grupo at pamayanan. Ang bawat Pilipino ay may bahagi sa

paghubog ng isang payapa at progresibong bansa. Hindi ito tungkulin ng pamahalaan lamang.

Kung kaya't sa taong ito, hinihikayat ko kayong ipagdiwang ang Buwan ng Kapayapaan, na may temang Serbisyo at Reporma para sa kapayapaan. Halikayo! Sama-sama nating nilayin ang kahulugan at kabuluhan nito.

Ang pagdiriwang ay sinimulan sa pamamagitan ng pagtunog ng Kampana ng Kapayapaan sa Lungsod ng Quezon. Sa pag-ibig ng Poong Maykapal, nawa'y umiral sa buong sambayanan, at sa ating puso't-isipan, ang tunog na ito ng kapayapaan.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay sa ating lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines

Peace to All!

In this time of crisis and violent conflicts besetting our land, it is indeed important that we remind ourselves and others of the value of peace. Without peace in our hearts, we are unable to realize and express our full potential as human beings. Without peace in our society and nation, there can be no development to sustain us and the future generations. And without peace among the nations, the one and only living planet we know is gravely endangered.

Peace Process means more than just negotiations with rebel groups. It requires the just resolution of the root causes of armed conflicts particularly through delivery of basic services and instituting reforms. Happily, government has achieved significant milestones along this track, despite the difficulties and constraints we have been facing.

Under the present administration, the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts especially in Mindanao remains to be a priority agenda. We have, for the first time, a National Peace Plan that targets the termination of armed hostilities with rebel groups by 2010 particularly through the tasks of peacemaking and peacekeeping, as well as conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The full implementation of the peace plan within the given time frame is one herculean effort that the national government cannot achieve by itself. It definitely requires multi-lateral partnership with local government units, civil society groups, including grassroots organizations, and the private sector.

The observance of the National Peace Consciousness Month, which presently revolves around the theme Serbisyo at Reporma Para sa Kapayapaan, is an opportunity for us to look back at our gains in the peace process, and to reflect and dialogue on ways to sustain them given the present realities and challenges.

Usec. Rene V. Sarmiento
OIC - Presidential Adviser
on the Peace Process

HARMONY PRAYER

O Lord, I cry for peace,
Purify my eyes to see peace,
Purify my mind to understand peace,
Purify my heart to love peace,
Purify my memory to work for peace,
The peace that comes from your
love and compassion.

O Lord, sustain my vision of peace
following your inspiration,
You have many ways of revealing your
presence and love for humanity,
But your style is constant:
You are in dialogue with all,
You care for all.

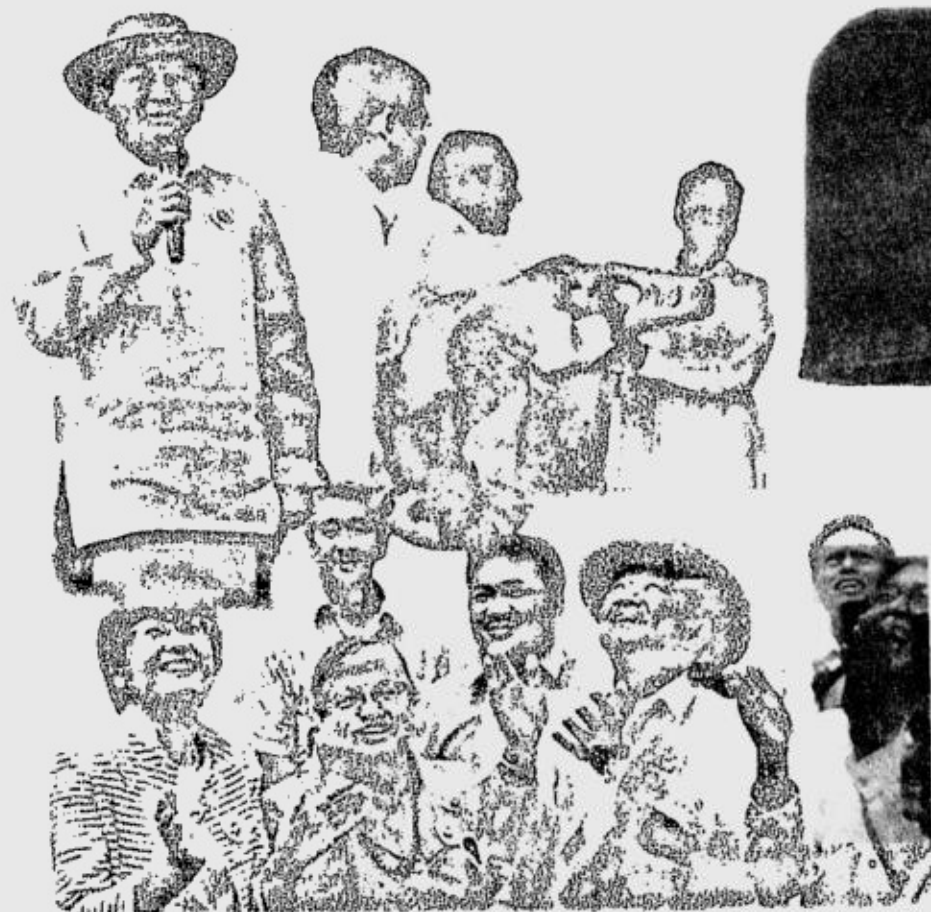
Make me O Lord, a sign of your peace,
Living a life-in-dialogue with you
to understand your silence
and seek your presence;
In dialogue with myself
to rediscover the meaning of life;
In dialogue with others
to move together in harmony with all;
And in dialogue with creation
to care for the earth.

Give me, O Lord,
the courage to live in dialogue
in the midst of divisions and conflicts
and to build peace with all people
of sincere hearts who believe
in your love and compassion.
Amen.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- Sept 1: Ringing of Peace Bell
Quezon Memorial Circle
- 2: Bangsamoro Youth Forum on Peace Processes
El Marco Hotel, Cotabato City
- 2 & 4: Orientation on the RPA-GRP Peace Process
Negros Oriental
- 2-3: Medical and Dental Mission in Conflict-affected Areas
Jolo, Sulu
- 3-4: Youth Peace Brigade 1
Barangay Kinabuhayan, Dolores, Quezon
- 5: Arrival of the 3rd Batch of the New Malaysian International Monitoring Team
Manila
- 5-8: National Summit of Religious Leaders
Crown Regency Hotel, Cebu City
- 8: Forum on Quest for Peace
Cotabato City
- Orientation on the RPA-GRP Peace Process
Iloilo
- 10-11: Youth Peace Brigade 2
Baseco Tondo Manila
- 11: Sunday Mass
ABS-CBN
- 12: Orientation on the RPA-GRP Peace Process
Antique
- 14: Medical and Dental Mission in Conflict-Affected Areas
Kalinga
- 14-15: Peace Policy Dialogue: Peacekeeping Initiatives in the Philippines
AIM
- 15: OPAPP Anniversary
- OPAPP-MINSED oral Health Care Project for Peace
Barangay Kibenes, Carmen, Cotabato
- 19: Media Launching of the Peace Exemplars
Aurora Quezon Elem. School, Quezon City
- Interfaith Dialogue/Mini-workshop: Vision of Peace among Religions
Miriam College
- 20: International Day of Peace Exhibit and Mini-Program
Miriam College
- 20-22: Teacher Orientation on the Peace Exemplars
San Mateo, Rizal
- 21: International Day of Peace (IDP)
IDP Celebration at the Tower of World Peace, Baguio City
- 23: Public Forum on the "Engagement of Armed Groups in Peace Process"
C.M. Recto Hall, UP Diliman
- 23-24: Youth Peace Brigade 3
Barangay Iruhin, Tagaytay City

- Seminar-Workshop on Conflict Transformation
NCCP Retreat Center, Dumaguete City
- 23-25: Fragments of Unity: A Call to Action
Youth for a United World in Focalare Movement
- 26: Talks on Peace-related topics
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
- 27: Workshop on Conflict Management and Reconciliation
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
- 28: Some Filipino Values; Pathways to Peace
University of Santo Tomas
- 30: Launching of OPAPP-Youth Aid Operation Day's Work
Rodriguez, Rizal
- Student Leadership Seminar
Baguio City



Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita leads in the Ringing of the Peace Bell and the Releasing of Doves to usher in the observance of the annual National Peace Consciousness Month, September 2005.

OPERASYON PAYAPA AT PROGRESIBONG PILIPINAS!

We are OPAPP - Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. We are a government agency under the Office of the President mandated to further the comprehensive peace process. Ours is a dual task of peacemaking and peacekeeping and of peace building and conflict prevention. We are a team working on and for peace initiatives from as far north as Cordillera to as far south as Tawi-Tawi. From the diminutive tasks of arranging files to drawing together massive discussions resulting from consultations, dialogues, meetings and peace talks, every OPAPP family member makes a significant contribution everyday to the continuing Philippine Peace Process saga.

We are OPAPP. But OPAPP too is YOU-our partners in the peace building effort. From other agencies of government to NGO partners on the ground to local government and community leaders to families in both peace agreement and conflict-affected areas to rebel returnees and amnesty beneficiaries. YOU all too are OPAPP. We are all part of the Operasyon Payapa at Progresibong Pilipinas. Because, after all, our work for peace goes way beyond talks - it is a massive, full scale, national operation to build a future of peace and progress for the country and for our children. This is our commitment. And this too must be our shared dream.

OPAPP na tayo!



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the **NATION**

US planes involved in Abu hunt, NGO says

DAVAO CITY—UNITED States military spy planes have been flying over areas in Mindanao that are believed to be the hiding places of suspected terrorists, non-government organization workers who claimed to have seen some of the planes said.

But the military quickly denied the claims saying there has been no joint RP-US military operation against suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits or Jemaah Islamiyah operatives elsewhere in the country.

Witness

Rexall Kaalim, coordinator of the Bantay Ceasefire and staffer of the Initiatives International Dialogue (IID), an advocacy and solidarity organization, said his group saw the plane when they visited an evacuation center in Guindulungan and in Talayan, Maguindanao a couple of days ago.

"The residents there had been recently displaced, following the military operation against suspected terrorist elements in the area," Rexall said.

He said residents also saw the planes flying over the Liguasan Marsh area since summer.

Tobias Schuldt, a German student who studies cultural anthropology and peace and conflict and an intern at the IID, said he has reason to believe that the planes he saw were those of the US military.

"I've seen it and we took a picture of it," he said.

Research

Schuldt said research he did later on the Internet indicated that the type of the plane he saw was a "P-3 Orion."

The plane, which can carry a crew of 11, is an anti-submarine and maritime surveillance air-



US TROOPS involved in training Filipino soldiers in antiterror tactics.

PDI FILE

craft that can also provide information about enemy positions to ground support troops.

Lawyer Mary Ann Arnaldo, secretary general of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus, also made the same claim.

She said she and several others on Aug. 1 saw the "unusual plane" flying at a distance close enough to be seen without the aid of a telescope.

She said a certain Jon Rodi, an American national who has also been involved in peace advocacy efforts in Mindanao, was able to take video footage of the passing plane and had concluded that it was also meant for surveillance.

Army denial

But Col. Dominador Tutaan Jr., Southcom chief of staff, denied that the US military was flying spy planes in Mindanao to help the Armed Forces of the

Philippines in its pursuit operation against terrorists.

"Those facts are exaggerated," Tutaan told the INQUIRER by phone.

Tutaan said the US military has no permission to fly reconnaissance flights over the Philippine airspace.

Tutaan said the witnesses could have mistaken the plane being used for humanitarian missions as a spy aircraft.

"We are not hiding anything," Tutaan said, adding that there are remaining American troopers in the country, but they are in the country only for humanitarian support missions.

Recently, US forces visited Maguindanao and provided aid to evacuees displaced by the military's antiterror campaign.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Hands off, Miriam reminds bishops

From page A1

makers had railroaded the impeachment proceedings.

"If the Church comes in and tries to pressure or to advocate among Catholics that there should be disrespect or disregard for the judgment of the House, under the guise of calling for the so-called truth, then I am very concerned," she said at a briefing.

She also said that as a "constitutional scholar," she feared a possible "violation of the constitutional principle of [separation of] Church and State."

But Santiago said her remarks were just a warning to the Church. So far, she said, she had not seen an instance where the Church had crossed the line.

Finishing her mandate

On Wednesday, Lagdameo said that the dismissal of the impeachment case was based merely on "technicalities and procedures," and that the question of whether Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 election remained.

He also said resignation was still one of the options recommended by the CBCP for the President.

But other Church officials, including Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Bishop Julio Xavier Labayan, had earlier openly called on Ms Arroyo to step down.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that Ms Arroyo's response to renewed calls for her to step down was "quite clear. [She] will finish her mandate."

Bunye said the President's attention was now focused on achieving the programs of her administration.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo's intention to finish her mandate meant that she would not heed the suggestion of former President Fidel Ramos that she cut her term short, Bunye said: "What we mean is mandate under the present Constitution. Our President believes in constitutional change and whatever will be approved by the people

Cardinal Vidal: Peace untenable when based on 'lying, cheating'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has offered her critics and detractors the "olive branch of peace," but Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal is reminding the faithful that peace is untenable when based on "lying, cheating or greed for power."

"Peace is founded on a culture that values truth, justice, decency and respect for others," Vidal said in a speech at the National Summit of Religious Leaders in Cebu the other day.

"If we must hope to build a culture of peace, therefore, we cannot allow these values to be subverted, for they are the very foundations of society," he said.

Vidal lamented that some people seemed convinced that peace could be achieved "by holding on to power, so they subvert political processes to



VIDAL

CON PHOTO

maintain themselves in power."

He raised the point the day after administration lawmakers voted to junk the impeachment case against the President, triggering protest actions from religious and militant groups, political personalities, and the middle class, led by former President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Rocas.

In his speech, Vidal said some people had wrongly equated peace with the "absence of dissent."

"So they silence all forms of protests," he said. "There are those who think peace is a feeling [of] security on the streets, so they execute the disturbers of peace."

He added that peace could not be "founded on murder, threats, lying, cheating, or greed for power."

in the plebiscite ... I guess everybody has to be bound by the results of Charter change."

Asked to comment on the plan of certain groups to launch a civil disobedience movement in the wake of the dismissed impeachment case, Bunye said he could only say that this action would result in the government's inability to finance social projects, including the construction of roads, hospitals and schools.

"It's the civic duty of those who are required under the law to pay their correct taxes, and on time," he said.

The House's duty

Santiago said that by voting overwhelmingly to uphold the justice committee report junking all three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, the House merely exercised its duty to rule on a political issue.

She suggested that any call of

the Church for the people to disregard the House vote might be treading beyond the thin line separating the Church and the State.

"The function of the Church is to guide the morality of its parishioners. The function of the State is to ensure that there is peace and order, and for this reason, [it] has the exclusive jurisdiction over legal, political and judicial issues," she said, adding:

"If they [Church officials] want to change the Constitution on impeachment, or if they want to change the rules on impeachment of the House or of the Senate, then they should do so before the process had begun."

"But they cannot, on the pretext that the rules are wrong, urge that the public should not obey the decision reached after those rules were followed."

Santiago said it would be "acceptable" if a single priest or a nun expressed an opinion on

whether the dismissal of the impeachment case was proper or not, given that all citizens were entitled to express their opinions on national policy issues.

"But the moment the Church uses its institutional power to try and instigate people to disrespect the House's judgment, then it might be guilty of violating the principle of [separation of] Church and State," she said.

Santiago further said it was all right for a bishop or the CBCP to issue a statement or even a pastoral letter criticizing the House vote.

But even clerics are subject to the Constitution, which provides that one's right to free speech and right to peaceful assembly "must always refer to constructive criticism," she said.

'Destructive criticism'

Santiago warned against "destructive criticism, in the sense of

urging [the people], for example, to rise up or take up arms against the government, or even to cause a tumult in our society, or to prevent certain public officials or government agencies from discharging public functions."

She added: "The Catholic Church should not join the divisions in society by taking one position or other in a political issue, for political issues are very ephemeral and are simply transitory [and] might be simply growth pains in a Third World country."

"And if the Church takes a definite position on who is right and who is wrong, then it is possible that [it] will be contributing to the divisions in society. And it is also possible that the Philippine Church might be violating an injunction of the Pope himself."

'Crucial signal'

Former National Labor Relations Commission chief Roy Señeres hailed Archbishop Lagdameo for reminding Ms Arroyo that questions about the legitimacy of her presidency should still be addressed.

"The stronger statements of Archbishop Lagdameo are crucial," Señeres said in a phone interview. "That's the signal the people are looking for to help them decide to join the rallies. I urge the CBCP to look at the sentiments of the people now. They want to know the truth, and surveys show they do not trust the President anymore."

Señeres also said that despite alleged attempts to downplay them, the street protests against the President would continue and would likely become stronger.

He said he learned this for himself during the Tuesday rally at the Batasang Pambansa.

"Many ordinary folk wanted to join the rallies protesting the dismissal of the impeachment case," Señeres said. "They were just apprehensive at first because they do not belong to any militant or political organization." With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

'Observe maximum tolerance'

PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO Bunye said authorities would continue to observe "maximum tolerance" in protest actions.

But he said the administration would "keep routes open" for those who needed to go to work.

Bunye also reminded protesters to "police their ranks against infiltrators."

"We accept peaceful demonstrations as part of our democracy," he said.

Daily rallies

In a phone patch interview with reporters, Gabriel Claudio, the President's political adviser, echoed Bunye in saying that protesters should not violate the rights of others, like those who wanted to go to work.

Asked to comment on the possibility that anti-Arroyo groups would hold daily rallies on Edsa, like Wednesday's mass action at the People Power Monument, Claudio said local government units and police authorities should assess the situation.

"The people who would like to go to work should not be affected as a result of these rallies," he said.

Claudio said the Palace understood that emotions were running high after the dismissal of the impeachment case.

But he expressed hope that in the coming days, protesters would not stage a repeat of the Wednesday rally that snarled traffic and inconvenienced commuters.

Accepting Pagcor money splits bishops' ranks

From page A1

from the "intelligence fund" of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

Their names were also listed in a 2003 Pagcor memorandum showing the breakdown of Christmas cash gifts for bishops, priests and religious organizations.

Pagcor envelopes for bishops

Aniceto has disclosed that Pagcor left envelopes containing money on the bishops' desks in July at the end of their retreat in Tagaytay. This was several days before they issued a pastoral statement on July 10 shying away from mounting calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo over allegations that she stole last year's elections and her family received illegal gambling payoffs. The statement defused the high tension then prevailing.

Vidal justified taking the Pagcor donations by saying it all went to the poor.

He said Pagcor money no longer went to the Church after the 119-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines rejected donations, even those coming from legal gambling in January 2004.

Capalla, the outgoing CBCP president, said Pagcor money was not immoral because it neither involved the poor nor promoted addiction

among them. The Davao prelate based his argument on moral theology, which holds gambling as neither moral nor immoral but "amoral." In essence, evil comes to it only when misused by the individual, rich or poor, he said.

Cruz, a staunch critic of both legal and illegal gambling, said Pagcor still "stinks no matter how it attempts to deodorize itself." The state-run gambling agency is in charge of casinos which primarily attract the wealthy and influential.

A big joke

"It is a big joke to look at money from gambling as clean and immaculate," said Cruz, whose crusade against the "jueteng" illegal numbers game in July sparked the worst political crisis of the 4-year-old Arroyo presidency.

"Pagcor stands for the making of suspect gamblers, the creation of pitiful addicts, the grabbing of hard-earned fortunes, the destruction of once-happy families, the promotion of graft and corruption," he said.

Cruz urged the Church hierarchy not to be dependent on Pagcor for its projects for the poor. He said people had been fed and clothed by "millions of people of good will" way before the agency came into the picture.

"Get rid of Pagcor here and now and churches shall continue to rise," he said.

Strings attached

By accepting money from Pagcor, the clergy becomes indebted to the agency which could be anything but "saintly, generous and selfless," Cruz said.

"When Pagcor funds are given out, these have strong strings attached," he said.

"Their recipients are expected not only to be grateful to them but, especially so, to be silent about the social costs they bring, the social ills they promote."

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, who takes over from Capalla in January as the newly elected CBCP president, yesterday also weighed in on the morality of using Pagcor money for the benefit of the impoverished.

Wrong perception

Lagdameo said the Church frowned upon donations coming from gambling proceeds because even if these were for the poor, "these may generate a perception that we are helping the poor, therefore gambling is okay."

Lagdameo said it did not matter if those who distributed the

donations were religious organizations, priests, bishops or government officials.

"From the point of view of the people who are being helped, it would appear to be good but from the point of view of people who might be deprived because of gambling, it might not be good," the prelate said. He said this was the reason why the CBCP issued a pastoral letter last year discouraging use of Pagcor funds.

Malicious intent

Asked why the issue has surfaced suddenly, Lagdameo said "it might be maliciously done in order to lessen the impact of what the bishops might be saying." He was obviously referring to the current political crisis.

Lagdameo said games of chance or gambling were "not evil or contrary to justice."

"They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for (one's) needs and that of others," Lagdameo said citing Church teachings.

Games that started as recreation or as a pastime can become immoral if "abused," he added.

With a report from Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

AFP says soldiers under political pressure

From page A1

zon is chair of the Senate committee on national defense and a former AFP chief of staff.

"Biazon basically stated what I would have stated if I were chairman of the committee on national defense which I was two years ago," Magsaysay said in an interview at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Both Biazon and Magsaysay belong to the administration bloc in the Senate.

"Is it the junior officers' obligation to protect the ship and its crew by taking over from the captain who is no longer trusted? That's a judgment call. That's where the military might get involved. Those are options," he said.

Issue of legitimacy

Magsaysay said Ms Arroyo "must listen" to the soldiers' sentiments. "It's an issue of legitimacy. Was she really elected to hold office as President or not?"

In an interview on Wednesday, De Villa said the anti-Arroyo movement needed military support but he could not say that it had that backing.

"Regime change cannot be done if the military and the police will not move with the nation like what happened during Edsa Dos," said De Villa, pointing to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

"But I believe that if there will be a people power, those in the active service will come to a decision and there will be a change of government. But we do not know if they will come to such a decision or not," said De Villa, chair of the anti-Arroyo Solidarity Movement.

Magsaysay said he was "100 percent certain that they're watching the situation all the time."

'Doubly irresponsible'

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur said it was "doubly irresponsible" for former President Corazon Aquino to say that she would use her contacts in the military to support calls for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"While we respect the right of Mrs. Aquino to express her opposition to the administration, and even call for the resignation of the President, it was extremely inappropriate for her to seek to tamper with the military establishment," Pichay said.

Aquino on Monday said that as

a former commander in chief she still had friends in the military but that she was seeking a nonviolent dismantling of the Arroyo administration.

Pichay said it was "highly unfortunate" for Aquino to imply that she would use her contacts with the military to back the protests, "considering that she herself had been victimized by repeated military coups by rightist adventurers who sought her unconstitutional ouster because of her government's perceived failings."

"Since she herself had experienced first-hand the dangers of military adventurism, then she is being doubly irresponsible now for threatening that she would unleash her alleged military dogs of war on the duly elected government," he said.

Help heal the wounds

Pichay appealed to Aquino to "act in accordance with her status as a former President to help bind up and heal the nation's wounds, instead of sowing divisiveness and dissension among the people, particularly in crucial sectors like the military."

Lakas Representatives Angelica Amante of Agusan del Norte and Benhur Abalos of Mandaluyong, Liberal Party Rep. Abraham Kahilil Mitra of Palawan and Kampi Rep. Rodito Albano III of Isabela also criticized Aquino and Susan Rocas, widow of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., runner-up in last year's election.

"Since (Rocas) is not a lawmaker, her recourse is to bring her grievance to the streets. It is up to her to protest the House decision, but we call on her not to inflame the people and to discourage their supporters from using violence," Albano said.

Critical sectors missing

A ranking intelligence officer told the INQUIRER that even if Aquino was involved in the moves to unseat Ms Arroyo he did not foresee the military and police withdrawing support from the President because of leftist presence in the opposition ranks.

The officer, who declined to be named, also ruled out the possibility of another people power revolt. He said a critical factor would be the middle class and the students. So far, he said the opposition had not been able to rally them to their cause.

Wanted: A surprise, new form of ...

From page A1

Soliman yesterday said Filipinos who agreed that President Macapagal-Arroyo should go could still pull off a "surprise" and pressure her out of office in ways different from Edsa I or II.

"The people have been angry even before the impeachment complaint died (on Tuesday). But the form and expression of that discontent are not necessarily another people power uprising," said the most vocal member of the "Hyatt 10" officials who bolted the Arroyo Cabinet.

"What form will it take this time? I trust in the people and the people will surprise us," she told the INQUIRER. "Every part of history has its own dynamics."

She was reacting to views that Tuesday's anti-Arroyo march to the Batasan complex led by ex-President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Rocas was a failed attempt at another "Edsa"—a massive vigil backed by the

Catholic Church and boosted by defections from the Cabinet, military and police.

"Who said there will be people power when the impeachment died? We did not say that. What we're saying is that people are disgruntled," Soliman said, adding that it was just Malacañang's spin to portray Tuesday's protesters as "failures."

'Unplanned'

Soliman pointed out that the nonviolent collapse of the Marcos regime in 1986 and the Estrada presidency in 2001 both stemmed from "unplanned" events.

Take, for example, what happened after the Jan. 16, 2001 walkout at the Senate over the infamous "second envelope" that supposedly contained damning evidence against Estrada in his impeachment trial, she recalled.

The walkout took place on a Tuesday, she said, but as early as

the previous Sunday she and other key organizers of the anti-Estrada campaign had actually planned other ways of dramatizing their protest should Estrada's Senate allies prevent the opening of the envelope.

"We were just planning then to drape black cloth over buildings and parishes," she said. The walkout, though, proved to be the trigger of Edsa II.

Soliman said the broad coalition now making up the anti-Arroyo movement would spend the next few days "bringing information out to the people on the kind of governance this government is doing, not just about the elections but how she (the President) is governing."

Schools, parishes, slums

Soliman said she and her allies would be going to schools, parishes and even slum areas to "share this information as a basis for (the people's) action."

Part of the effort would be a "clarification" of the seemingly unlikely alliance of Aquino, Rocas and the Estrada groups, the Hyatt 10, the Left, and the camps of defeated presidential candidates Eddie Villanueva and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"Many people, who are not active and are afraid of the unknown, dismiss (us) as just the coming together of people who hate GMA. That's just missing the point," she said.

Common objective

The diverse groups and interests making up the coalition, she said, "recognize our differences in the past that have resulted in personal hurts and political disenfranchisement."

But Soliman said that the "unity" of the anti-Arroyo forces was based on a "common objective to seek the truth" and that they all agreed "that the avenue to bring the truth out has closed, that she has lost credibility, and that she must resign."

MMDA can't close bus terminals, says court

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) has no power to order the closure of provincial bus terminals along Edsa, according to a Manila Regional Trial Court judge.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 yesterday issued Executive Order No. 179, which was enacted upon the recommendation of the MMDA, declaring the closure of bus terminals along major thoroughfares as "unconstitutional" and "inconsistent with the legal provisions of the Public Service Law."

"The Court hereby declares

that the power or authority of the MMDA to regulate traffic in Metropolitan Manila does not include the power to direct the closure of the petitioners' existing bus terminals," Pampilo said in his order, reversing his earlier decision last Jan. 24, 2005 favoring the MMDA.

Not a solution

Petitioners Viron Transportation Co., Inc. and Menco Transportation System Inc. had argued that the closure would not solve traffic congestion in Metro Manila's main thoroughfares.

The petitioners added that the

action would only result in the centralization of traffic congestion in the north and south terminals.

Pampilo also cited in his order the case of MMDA vs. Bel Air wherein the Supreme Court said that the powers of the agency are limited to the formulation, coordination, regulation, implementation, preparation, management, monitoring, setting of policies, installation of a system and administration.

"There is no syllable in Republic Act 7924 that grants the MMDA police power, let alone legislative power," the order said.

"Even the Metro Manila Coun-

cil has not been delegated any legislative power," it added.

No police power

The judge also cited the recent case of MMDA vs. Garin, with the High Court ruling that the MMDA "is not vested with police power."

"From the foregoing pronouncement of the High Court, under the provisions of RA 7924, the MMDA cannot order petitioners to close and abandon their existing bus terminals and provide mass transport terminal facilities to all buses plying the north and south areas of Luzon," Pampilo said.

Slain TV director's lawyer seeks new probe

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HE COULD BE PROSECUTING the wrong man.

With the discovery of new evidence, the lawyer of slain television director Luis Santiago's family said he would take a second look at the indictment of Oliver Jameiro, accused gunman in a shooting incident outside a posh Makati bar last June 8.

"It would appear that even witnesses for the prosecution are saying that Jameiro could not have been the gunman. Even Jameiro has recanted his earlier admission," said Claro Certeza, the private prosecutor representing Santiago's family.

Certeza said yesterday he would ask the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 134 to remand to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office (CPO) cases for which Jameiro was indicted by the justice department, for a new preliminary investigation.

"It might seem unusual for me to ask for a reinvestigation, but even the prosecution is starting to entertain doubts about Jameiro. If only to save the state the expense of going into litigation, when he could not be the right man, then I think it would be proper for a reinvestigation to take place," Certeza told the INQUIRER.

He said he would file his motion before Jameiro's scheduled arraignment on Oct. 27.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) charged Jameiro with homicide for Santiago's death, and direct assault with frustrated homicide for injuries suffered by

Senior Inspector Merquiodi Bodanio, elevating to the court complaints filed in the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Bodanio and another responding policeman, Adrian Tibor, had identified Jameiro as the one who fired shots outside V-bar at the time of the incident.

"I would much prefer and insist that the City Prosecutor's Office handle the reinvestigation, because it was the first to acquire jurisdiction over the case," said Certeza.

The local prosecutor's office received criminal complaints filed by the Makati Police Department (MPD) against the V-bar shooter even before the NBI arrested Jameiro. But as state prosecution already took cognizance of NBI's complaints against Jameiro, the Makati CPO continued its preliminary investigation only on other cases filed against the alleged gunman, including attempted murder for injuries suffered by other bar guests, and related cases of obstruction of justice against other parties tagged in the incident.

Jameiro recently saw a venue to defend himself pending trial at the Makati RTC, and submitted before the local CPO an affidavit retracting his earlier admission to the NBI, which he claimed he was forced to execute.

Certeza added that he had witnesses who could attest that Jameiro was not the gunman. Apart from the issue on Jameiro's indictment, Certeza would also include the possibility that Santiago's slay was premeditated. A case of murder should have been filed against the alleged gunman, he said.

METRO BRIEFS

A piece of Italy

SOON, AN UNNAMED thoroughfare in Parañaque City would have a new identity. The Parañaque City government is poised to "baptize" a still unnamed road at Don Bosco Village as Siena Street through an ordinance. Councillor Norberto Bonsel said religious leaders and residents requested the naming of the street in honor of citizens from Siena in Central Italy who fund the Fr. Simpliciano Academy, a school for poor children in the barangay.



Jocelyn R. Uy

Navotas cleans up

A CLEAN UP DAY FOCUSED ON CLEARING riverbanks, *esteros* and other waterways to prevent stagnant waters from becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and to ensure the effectivity of the local government's

flood control project was recently proposed by Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco for his constituents. The mayor added that road and sidewalk repairs are also now being undertaken. "The flood control program which the municipal government had begun to implement is starting to pay off," Tiangco said. Pumping stations had been put up in 2001 to address the perennial problem of flooding in North Metro Manila.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Confab on drug rehab

THE RECOVERY CIRCLE FOUNDATION, IN COOPERATION with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Dangerous Drugs Board, is holding a National Conference on Addiction and Rehabilitation at the Bayview Park Hotel, 1118 Roxas Blvd. cor. United Nations Ave., Manila. The

theme of the conference is "Making Sense of Addiction." DILG Secretary Angelo Reyes is the keynote speaker while DDB Executive Director Dionisio Santiago is the special guest and resource person on the topic "Drug Addiction: The Philippine Picture." Other resource persons are: World Health Organization Representative in the Philippines, Dr. Jean Marc Olive, Member of Congressional Committee on Dangerous Drugs, Rep. Ace Barbers, Dr. Monica Cardinez Tan; Dr. Cornelio Banaag, Dr. Carlo Banaag, Josephine Aguilar, Dr. Natividad Dayan and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Preventive Education and Community Involvement Deputy Director, PSI Emerito Estrada. Panelists are Tanay Mayor Ricardo Tanjuatco, Felix Falgui, Jr., Joemar Salumbides, Ducky Paredes, Norman Nicolas and Sonny Trinidad. For inquiries, please contact the Conference Secretariat at (02) 886-4595, telefax (02) 889-0153, 0921-5365849 or e-mail at addiction_conference@yahoo.com.

Spare Edsa from rallies, MMDA tells protesters

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SPARE EDSA.

This was the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) appeal to groups planning to stage a repeat of Wednesday's massive protest at the People Power Monument on Edsa, which snarled traffic for hours on the major thoroughfare.

Thousands of protesters had gathered in front of the People Power Monument in Quezon City on Wednesday calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, in the wake of the failure of an impeachment bid against her. The protesters occupied at least two lanes of Edsa's northbound lane.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the demonstration impeded traffic flow, and caused traffic build up until the Magallanes Interchange in Makati City.

The MMDA suggested that groups planning to hold mass actions could use White Plains Road, a six-lane road perpendicular to Edsa and close to the People Power Monument.

"The reason why we removed the center islands on White Plains Road two years ago is so it could serve as a venue for mass gatherings. There, they could shout all they want, and it would be okay," said Vergel de Dios.

The traffic chief said groups intending to

hold protests on the site should seek a permit from the MMDA, as the agency should be informed about any activity on a roadway.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, one of the largest left-wing groups that had organized previous anti-Arroyo rallies, however said that rally organizers would always be considerate of commuters and motorists in every demonstration they would stage.

"In the event that a rally might be affecting traffic flow, it becomes the task of the rally organizer to make sure that from our end, we control the people. We are sensitive to the commuting public," said Reyes.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Police District is keeping an eye on the Edsa Shrine at Ortigas Avenue amid threats of protest actions against the President. "We have assigned a team to closely monitor the area," district director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela told the INQUIRER.

Protesters had been snubbing the area, which had witnessed two mammoth people power revolutions in the past, since calls for Ms. Arroyo to resign snowballed a few months ago. Demonstrators who would attempt to use the area would be asked to find another place, Valenzuela said. "The area is a venue for worship, not for political activities," he added.

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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• One (1) Living Room/Entertainment Showcase worth P59,498.75
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• Ten (10) winners of Five Thousand Pesos Ray Marketing, Inc. Gift Certificate
• Five (5) winners of Sharp Television 20VL70M 51cm (20")
• Two (2) winners of Magic Sing Microphone ED6000

3rd draw
Major Prize:
• One (1) Kitchen Showcase worth P58,811.00
Consolation Prizes:
• Ten (10) winners of Five Thousand Pesos Ray Marketing, Inc. Gift Certificate
• Five (5) winners of Sharp Television 20VL70M 51cm (20")
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10. A participant can win only once per draw. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize.

11. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

12. Winners can claim their prizes at the REY MARKETING, INC. C. Raymundo Ave., Rosario, Pasig City. They must present the registered mail, one (1) valid ID, claim stub, and sales invoice.

13. The names, addresses, and pictures of the winners will be published in leading newspapers.

14. Prizes are tax-free.

15. Shipping costs for winners outside Metro Manila will be shouldered by winners.

16. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from the receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of REY MARKETING, INC. with prior approval of DTI.

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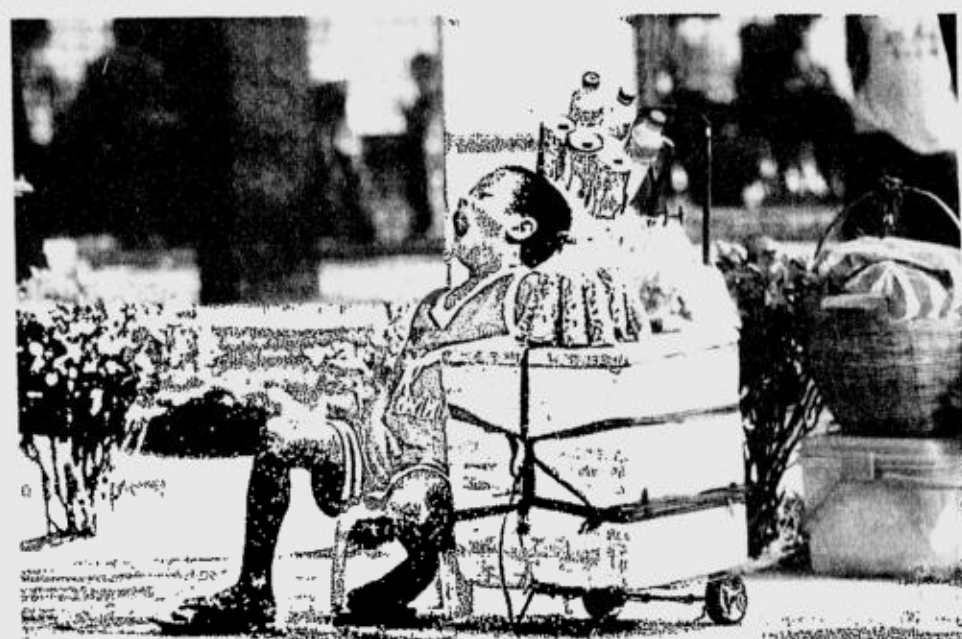
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LAZY AFTERNOON

Business is slow along the Baywalk in Manila and this boy selling bottled water, softdrinks and peanuts couldn't agree more.

REM ZAMORA

Manila police:
Tear gas in rally
was an accident

By DJ Yap

THE POLICE GOT A DOSE of their own medicine.

Antiriot policemen from "Manila's Finest" managed to disperse a group of militant government workers yesterday but also broke up their own lines at the Mabuhay Ronda.

The odd dispersal happened when a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team unintentionally dropped a tear gas canister, said Sampaloc police station director Supt. Bernardo Diaz.

Diaz said an unidentified civilian had bumped into the policeman and caused the incident.

Unidentified

However, the police official could not identify the Swat member and the civilian.

As gas wafted through several meters of España—just beyond Manila's boundary with Quezon City—policemen and protesters had to break their ranks, splash water onto their faces and dab their eyes with wet cloth.

While police insisted that it was an accident, members of the Confederation for Unity, Advancement and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage) scoffed at the claim.

Vangie Javier of the National Housing Authority Consolidated Union of Employees said she found it unbelievable that the tear gas canister was accidentally dropped at the precise moment the demonstrators were about to begin their march toward Mendiola at about 2:30 p.m.

Standard equipment

Whether accidental or intentional, the fact that the Manila police brought tear gas said much about their attitude towards militants, said Courage president Ferdinand Gaité.

Tear gas is standard equipment for Swat members.

"Now, police are using not just sticks and shields, but also tear gas," Gaité said. A member of the Alliance of Health Workers was taken to hospital, he said.

But the tear gas was not the only thing that went against the demonstrators.

Because of the incident, Courage members, who numbered less than 200, abandoned their plan to march to Mendiola, and settled for a program at the rotunda.

Drenched, dispersed

Later, however, rain fell, and reduced their number.

Diaz said it was ridiculous to accuse the police of spraying tear gas on themselves. "Sure, it was intentional. We intended to disperse ourselves," he joked.

He said he was not familiar with how tear gas canisters worked, and how a simple drop could set it off.

Police from Manila and Quezon City had no intention of allowing the protesters to enter Manila since Courage did not have a permit-to-rally.

Gaité insisted they did not need a permit, as it was their constitutional right to freedom of assembly and expression to express their grievances against the government.

Girl stabbed 31
times, survives

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS stabbed 31 times in Navotas town past midnight Wednesday and survived.

The victim, who was believed attacked by a drug-crazed man, had been declared out of danger.

However, she is still in a guarded condition because of physical and emotional trauma, said Navotas police chief Supt. Genesis Tolejano.

Police said the girl and her mother had attended a birthday party at a relative's house on Santillan Street Tuesday.

It was too late to go home they decided to stay over and spend the night.

"The mother thought it would be dangerous for them to travel because it was already close to midnight," Tolejano said.

The mother told police that while she was inside her relative's house, nobody noticed the girl go out.

The child was later discovered by a couple under a passenger jeepney parked some 30 meters from the house of her relative.

She was bleeding from 31 stab wounds and a slashed tongue, police said.

Tolejano said the attacker appear to have cut the tongue of the girl so she would not scream for help.

He added that the assailant seemed to have used a small box cutter, with the blade only partially exposed, in stabbing the girl.

Investigators said the girl's wounds were shallow, enabling her to quickly recover from her injuries.

Police were able to talk to her Wednesday.

The girl told them that she did not know the attacker but would be able to identify him if she saw him again.

"It was just fortunate that the wounds were shallow but she still lost a lot of blood," the police chief said.

Tolejano said his men already had leads on the identity of the attacker, and expressed hopes that they would arrest him soon.

The police official said they already questioned witnesses who had provided a description of the assailant.

A man was also invited for investigation, but was later released after witnesses failed to positively identify him as the attacker. Nancy C. Carvajal

MRT
breaks
down

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO RAIL TRANSIT 3 operations stopped for about 20 minutes yesterday morning after a northbound train broke down and had to be towed from the Guadalupe station in Makati City.

MRT 3 spokesperson Mariano Gui said the train suffered electrical problems at 9:45 a.m. and the control center decided to have it towed rather than let it run on its own to the north depot.

The train had to unload its passengers as it stalled the trains from both ends.

Thousands of commuters were stranded while hundreds more were stuck in long queues in the different stations.

Most of the affected riders decided to just take the bus or a cab.

"We had to stop the train because it could cause more damage. We also prioritize the safety of our passengers," said Gui.

Some 400,000 passengers take the MRT every day.

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a place in Rome close to the Fontana di Trevi . . . and now
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FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

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Bite the bullet: No SEAG caging

POC's Cojuangco hits out at 'high and mighty' pro league, 'mindless' BAP

By Musong R. Castillo

"DON'T THREATEN US."

The Philippine Olympic Committee issued this statement to the Philippine Basketball Association yesterday in a harsh response to the pro league's threat to disband its national team program if the POC's row with the Basketball Association of the Philippines is not settled soon.



COJUANGCO

"The POC does not respond well to threats, veiled or otherwise," said an irritated POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "So where do they (PBA officials) get this attitude of being high and mighty and threatening the POC?"

"Maybe it is because of this kind of attitude by these officers, who cannot keep their word, that the PBA is losing public interest."

Cojuangco was referring to PBA commissioner Noli Eala and former chair Buddy Encarnado, who both worked with the POC as incorporators of the Philippine Basketball Federation which, incidentally, Cojuangco said, is the cage association duly recognized by the local Olympic body.

"The PBF will continue to run the [country's] affairs in the sport until such time it secures recognition from the Fiba (international basketball federation)."

With this, Cojuangco ended all hopes of the POC meeting with the BAP to settle their differences. The PBA has said it wants the row settled to pave the way for the eventual lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines.

Cojuangco said the POC is ready to bite the bullet of a no-basketball scenario for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

He said this would drive "a monster point" that national interest had been repeatedly betrayed by the BAP in "mindlessly sending [a team of] patsies to international tournaments."

"The BAP should be the last to claim rights to national interest because this term is alien to the association," Cojuangco said.

"It coddles individuals notoriously responsible for bringing national shame and embarrassment in and out of the basketball court."

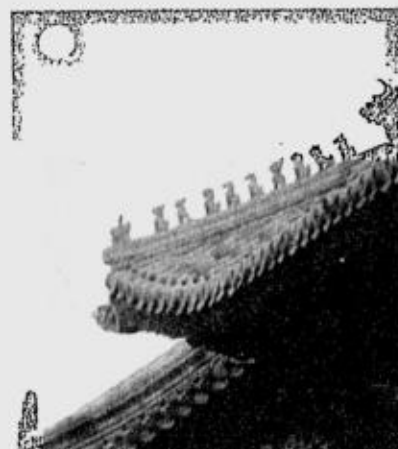
Cojuangco was obviously referring to BAP secretary general Graham Lim, who is facing deportation as an alien.

Eala and Encarnado were both part of the group that organized two cage summits last April, with the latter joining several other stakeholders in drafting the constitution and

BITE/ A26



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Goma seeks 2 SEAG golds

MATINEE idol Richard Gomez will be shooting for two gold medals in as many sports in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Gomez will be in the fencing team and in the combat shooting squad. If successful, he could become the first man to achieve the feat in the biennial Games. "Goma" had tried rowing before shifting to fencing, where he has represented the country well in epee competitions.

JASMIN Figueroa, the archer from Tondo who claimed two world-class victims in the Athens Olympics before being knocked out in the round-of-32, will go through qualifying like everyone else for a slot in the national archery team. Figueroa will shoot for a slot in the recurve and compound events when the National Archery Association of the Philippines conducts tryouts in Subic starting today.

Musong R. Castillo

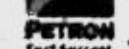
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SPORTS

Tams survive Tigers; Eagles tame Bulldogs

Knights, Dolphins try to arrange championship tiff

By Jasmine W. Payo

SEMIFINALIST FAR EASTERN STRUGGLED TO KEEP ITS BID FOR a twice-to-beat advantage on track as the Tamaraws escaped with a 64-63 decision over the University of Santo Tomas Tigers in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Tamaraws, who have been keeping the top spot all season, improved to 11-1, but FEU coach Bert Flores noted that more teams are giving them a tough time.

"UST came off a big win (against Ateneo) so they had a high morale," said Flores. "They're peaking in the second round. They almost had it but it was a good win for us."

The Tigers had a chance to pull another upset behind Allan Evangelista, but the junior forward's buzzer-beater rimmed out.

Earlier, coach Norman Black expressed disappointment as his Ateneo Eagles struggled past the winless National U Bulldogs, 70-65.

"We had a nice streak going but we lost our focus a little bit," said Black. "We didn't have the defensive intensity and there were too many turnovers. I'm not happy with the way we played but I'm happy that we won."

The Eagles, who are still in the running for a semifinal bonus at 9-3, surprisingly saw their seven-game winning run end against the lowly Tigers last Saturday.

The second-running University of the East Warriors remain half a game ahead at 10-3.

GAMES TOMORROW

(Araneta Coliseum)

9:30 a.m.—UST vs NU

(Jrs)

11:30 a.m.—UE vs UP

(Jrs)

2 p.m.—UST vs NU

(Srs)

4 p.m.—UE vs UP

(Srs)

Meanwhile, the UAAP board will issue today its decision on an appeal for reconsideration by La Salle in the wake of the controversial game between the Archers and the UE Warriors last week.

La Salle filed an appeal last Monday after the technical committee nullified its 86-83 overtime win and declared UE the winner.

The committee upheld UE's protest that La Salle wasn't entitled to a timeout in the last 1.8 seconds of regulation play.

The varsity scores:

First Game (Srs)

ATENEU 70—Kramer 13, Escalona 12, Baracosa 11, Tenorio 9, Reyes 7, Aguilar 7, Intal 6, Quimson 3, Membrere 2, Nazareno 0.

NU 65—Asoro 22, D. Catamora 12, Flor 11, Jahneke 8, Malcontento 7, Fernandez 5, Tungcul 0, Sanchez 0, Salvado 0, Lignao-Lingao 0, Estolano 0, Dela Cruz 0, C. Catamora 0.

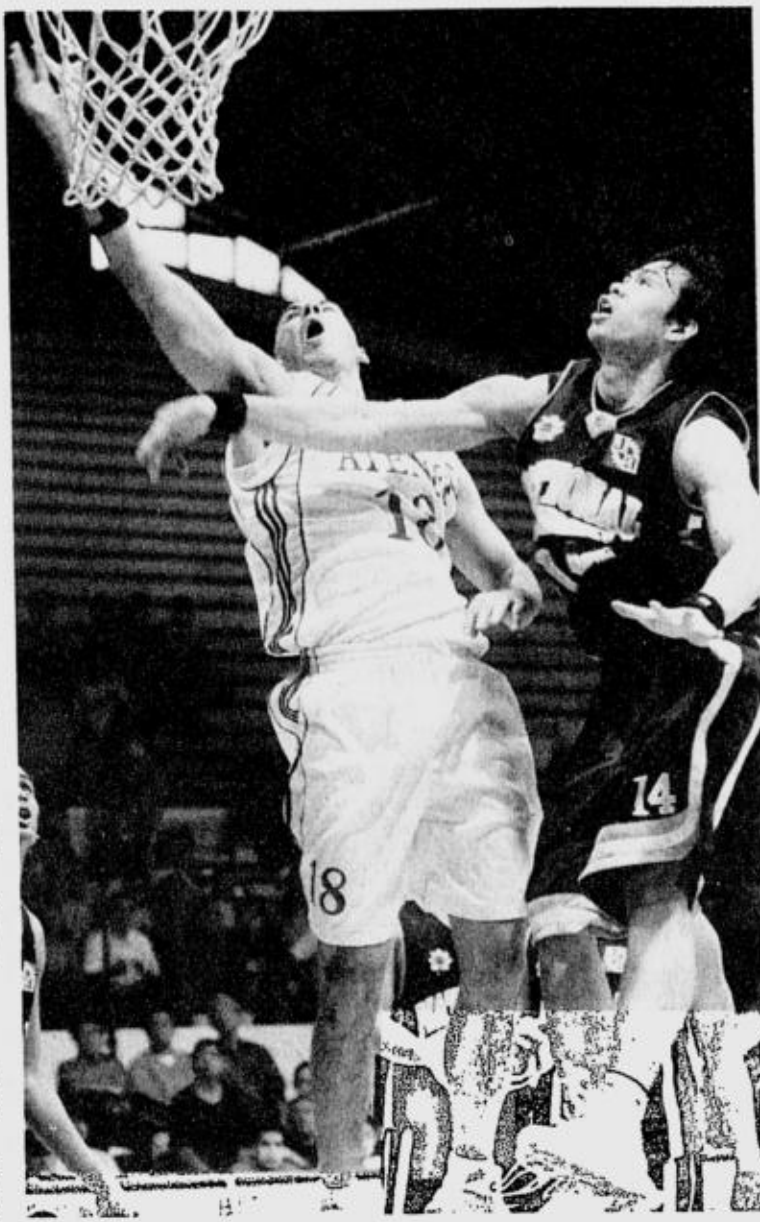
Quarters: 14-13, 36-35, 56-48, 70-65

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 64—Chan 14, Rizada 11, Flores 8, Mangahas 7, Santos 6, Villanueva 5, Saldua 3, Barceliano 3, Fernandez 2, Dela Cruz 0.

UST 63—Evangelista 19, Duncil 10, Allera 9, Ababou 8, De Guzman 7, Prihidas 3, Cuan 3, Espiritu 2, Taylor 2, Dizon 0, Crisostomo 0, Cortez 0, Canlas 0, April 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 36-30, 51-46, 64-63



ATENEU'S Doug Kramer (left) is fouled by Howard Flor of National U as he goes for a lay-up during their game yesterday.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

HOPING TO BANK on their experience, the Letran Knights and the Philippine Christian U Dolphins will try to arrange a title showdown when they battle their respective foes in the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Defending champion PCU will face the Mapua Cardinals at 2 p.m., while Letran, the 2003 titlist, will take on the San Sebastian at 4 p.m.

The Knights and the Dolphins are just a win from advancing to the Finals having claimed the twice-to-beat incentive as the top two finishers in the elimination round.

But coach Louie Alas would rather have his Knights forget about their fabulous 13-1 run in the regular season.

"In the semis, all the stats don't matter," said Alas, who is concerned with stopping the Stags' formidable veteran duo of Leo Najorda and Red Vicente.

"It's no secret that you can't stop

GAMES TODAY

(Cuneta Astrodome)

Final Four

2 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)

4 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)

Najorda and Vicente," he added. "I think I have players who are capable of limiting them."

Stags mentor Turo Valenzona noted that the Knights' advantage is their balanced offense.

"Letran is organized and they have seasoned players," Valenzona said. "They have a good distribution of points and their players are all hardworking."

Defense will also be the core of PCU coach Junel Baculi's game plan against the Cardinals.

"We have to stop their outside shooting," said Baculi.

But Cardinals tactician Horacio Lim believes he has a lot more to worry about.

"It's hard to stop PCU when you have (Gabby) Espinas, (Jason) Castro and (Robert) Sanz," said Lim. "If you stop them inside, they'll hit you from the outside. But we can always give them a scare." Jasmine Payo

Mediatix, Boy Bawang score

MEDIATRIX TELECOMS AND BOY Bawang stayed alive in the 9th Danny Espiritu basketball tournament Tuesday by hurdling their respective semifinal rivals at the Washington gym in Makati City.

Playing team manager Mike Dulias' Mediatix cagers whipped defending champion San Sebastian College Recoletos-Cavite, 70-61, while Boy Bawang subdued Far Eastern Insurance-Cavite, 83-77, to

arrange knockout return matches.

The two Cavite squads earned twice-to-beat odds after topping the eliminations of the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel.

Nino Songco and Al Vergara combined for 37 points to key Mediatix's victory.

Nino Marquez and Rolie Bastiades carried the load for Boy Bawang.

Bite the bullet: No SEA Games caging

From page A25

by-laws of the PBF.

Both disappeared from the PBF after the election of the first set of officers was called off. One highly placed source claimed that the reason behind this was that the PBA did not get its wish to install its own choice as president of the PBF.

The PBA has sent all-star teams to three different tournaments since being involved in the cage summit with the POC and basketball's other major stakeholders last April.

Coached by Chot Reyes, the RP team aspirants launched the long-term effort by the PBA, under an MOA forged with

the BAP, to land the country back into the global basketball scene, the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing being the ultimate goal.

But Lito Alvarez, the Air21 president and representative to the PBA board, threatened to shoot down the PBA's multimillion-peso program after it became apparent that

the country would not be able to participate in important tournaments.

While the PBA board, in its regular meeting last Monday, did not directly tackle the RP five issue, it nevertheless came out with that bold directive that obviously piqued Cojuangco.

A PBA board statement issued by new

chair Ely Capacio on Monday demanded, in no certain terms, that "the POC and the BAP work toward the immediate restoration of the active status of the country with the Fiba. Otherwise, neither our program nor our resources will be utilized by any group or body for any international basketball competition."





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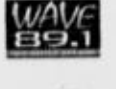


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MONTH'S FINEST: Tenpin Bowling Association of Makati (TBAM) president Ted Baroque (center) join the champions of the club's monthly tournament held at the Powerbowl at Rockwell recently. From left, Biboy Cayco, Class B men; Mades Arles, Class B women; Rochelle Munsayac, Class A women; Baroque; Jeff Chan, Class O men; Anton Silos, Class B men; and the Inquirer's Gary Libby, Class C men.

Producers of SEA Games opening program back out

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT MAY BE AMONG THE LAST ITEM IN THE Southeast Asian Games hosting checklist, but the opening ceremony—tipped to be attended by a record-breaking crowd—still has no program to speak of.

Prospective producers of the inaugural extravaganza have reportedly backed out at the last minute, leaving the SEAG Organizing Committee in a frantic, end-game search for somebody who would organize the rites.

The opening is scheduled to be held on Nov. 27 at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park where or-

ganizers estimate a crowd of 250,000 to gather.

Sources said, however, that renowned television producers Richie Benedicto and Maria Montelibano have begged off from the gig.

Philsoe official, Rep. Monico Puentevella said they have never finalized anything with the producers because "we didn't have any budget in the beginning."

Still, the weightlifting chief said they are now getting in touch with Rene Hoflana, who directed the opening of the 1991 SEA Games at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Now based in Silay City in Negros Occidental, Hoflana is credited for the modest yet memorable 1991 rites.

TC races all set in Batangas

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TOURING CAR Championships, the only nationally titled and internationally recognized motorsports competition, finally get underway this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The best and the brightest in local motorsports, led by last year's "Driver of the Year" awardee Louie Ramirez, take the limelight anew during the two-day race organized by Racing Fans Inc., in cooperation with the Automobile As-

sociation of the Philippines (AAP).

Expected to join Ramirez in the starting grid are Mike Potenciano, Kookie Ramirez, Carlos Anton, Miguel Ramirez, Miguel Lazaro and celebrity driver Monching Gutierrez.

The participants will vie for the coveted "Driver of the Year" award.

Racing Fans Inc. president Richard Santos said the PNTCC will bring together the biggest names in local motorsports in one single racing event.

Pacquiao, Velazquez battle for WBC belt

THE MEXICO-BASED WORLD Boxing Council has officially sanctioned this Sunday's 12-round fight between Manny Pacquiao and Hector Velazquez as a battle for the vacant WBC International super featherweight title.

The WBC has apparently decided to award the belt to the Pacquiao-Velazquez winner after Erik Morales, its former holder, relinquished it to fight for another WBC belt.

Morales won the WBC International super featherweight crown after his epic 12-round win over Pacquiao last March.

Now Morales is gunning for the vacant WBC International lightweight crown against Zahir Raheem in another 12-round rumble serving as the co-main event of the "Double Trouble" Sunday.

The Tijuana native's decision to move up in



MANNY Pacquiao works in the ring with trainer Freddie Roach Wednesday at the Wild Card Gym in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles in preparation for his 12-round bout against Hector Velazquez on Sept. 10.

weight is in line with his plan to challenge the winner of the Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo WBC/WBO lightweight showdown on Oct. 8.

But if Pacquiao and Morales hurdle their respective foes on Sunday, the plan is to pit them for a Jan. 21 pay-per-view rematch.

The WBC International title is disputed by boxers rated No. 11 and up. The boxing body's regular super featherweight title is being held by

Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, who won it at the expense of Morales last year.

Barrera is the same world-famous fighter who was beaten by Pacquiao in a non-title clash two years ago.

Yesterday, Pacquiao did a light workout at the Wild Card Gym with trainer Freddie Roach before heading to the Los Angeles airport to fetch his wife Jinky. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Fil-Am Vitoria also tipped to prevail in world crown bid

JUST LIKE MANNY PACQUIAO, Filipino-American Brian "Hawaiian Punch" Vitoria has been rated a favorite in his bid to wrest the World Boxing Council light flyweight title from Mexican Eric Ortiz this Sunday.

Sportsbook.com has picked the Hawaii-raised Vitoria a minus-145 favorite (a \$145 bet wins \$100) while Ortiz has been installed as a plus-115 underdog (a \$100 bet wins \$115).

Vitoria is fighting in the undercard of the eagerly awaited boxing doubleheader featuring Pacquiao and his Mexican tormentor Erik Morales against separate opponents Sunday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao will take on veteran Mexican Hector Velazquez (See main story) while Morales will fight former US Olympian Zahir Raheem. If they win, they collide in a rich rematch in January.

Vitoria, who represented the US in the 2000 Olympics, instantly earned admiration from Filipinos around the globe after he openly corrected promoter Bob Arum by saying that he is 100 percent Filipino, not just part-Filipino, in a recent interview on leading boxing program "Main Event."

The unbeaten Vitoria said he is proud of his Filipino roots and would be fighting this Sunday with the Philippine flag emblazoned on his trunks.

Ortiz defends his title with a 24-4-1 win-draw-loss record.

Ranked behind Vitoria, the WBC No. 1 contender, is another Filipino, Juanito Rubillar.

The Freddie Roach-trained Vitoria had earlier said that after he wins the WBC 108-lb title, he plans to move up to the 112-lb flyweight division. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

NBC REVERSAL

Manila cagers nip Cebuanos

MINGLANILLA, CEBU—BACCHUS/HARBOR Centre took advantage of Tribu Sugbu's poor shooting to hack out a 72-68 victory Wednesday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

The visiting Manila squad opened up a 49-31 lead in the third quarter and then weathered a fiery Tribu rally in the payoff period to register their third win in seven games in the Northern Conference.

The defending champion, Cebuanos, fell to 7-5 in the Southern Conference of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

It was a crucial setback for Tribu, which now needs to beat Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi on Sunday to forge a possible three-way tie with the Iligan Crusaders for second place, behind frontrunner Ozamiz.

Marvin Mercado scored 10 straight points to bring Tribu within eight, 42-54 going into the final canto.

The pro-Tribu crowd, which was silent for a long time, suddenly came to life, more so after a couple of triples by Lowell Briones and Ronald Bucacut cut the deficit to 63-66, time down to one minute.

But coach Lawrence Cheongson's Bacchus/Harbour boys scored well from the free throw line to ice the contest.

The scores:

BACCHUS/HARBOR 72—Epondulan 19, Ramora 10, Rauschmayer 10, Enrie 7, Hardin 6, Cordero 6, Gamboa 6, Coyukang 2, Hudenciel 2, Sta. Cruz 2.

TRIBU SUGBU 68—Briones 12, Mercado 12, Calinglet 10, Bucacut 8, Guerrero 7, Almacin 7, Ursal 3, Mangubat 3, Cabanes 3, Ferraren 2, Ignacio 1.

Quarters: 23-11, 39-25, 54-42, 72-68

SCSIT, Berns-Ang forge finals clash

SALAZAR COLLEGES OF SCIENCE AND INSTITUTE of Technology (SCSIT) and Berns-Ang will slug it out for the championship of the first Cebuana Lhuillier Slo-Pitch Softball Challenge this weekend in Cebu City.

SCSIT, owning the league's best 9-1 win-loss record after the two-round elimination held at the Cebu International School grounds, only needs to beat Berns-Ang, which totes a 7-3 slate, to win the title.

The two teams took the top two spots in the six-team field, winning last week's semifinal games with SCSIT edging out Mandaue City, 11-10, and Berns-Ang beating the Cebu Flag Football League (CFFL) Selection, 9-7.

CFFL was in third place after the eliminations and the semifinals with a 6-4 card. Mandaue City, although tied for fourth place with Pera Padala-Abellana National School at 3-7, will play CFFL for third place.

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Paraguay prevails, takes lead

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA gained the solo lead in the Asian Zone 3.3 Chess Championship with a seventh-round victory over Burmese IM Zaw Htun Wynn on Wednesday at the Stanford Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The 21-year-old Paragua improved to 6 points and needs only to beat Singaporean GM Wong Meng Kong in the eighth and penultimate round Thursday night to assure himself of at least a second place finish in the tournament serving as a qualifier for this year's World Chess Championship.

Wong and Indonesian GM Utut Adianto trail the second-seeded Paragua with 5.5 points each, half a point clear of Filipino GM Eugene Torre and Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung, who both have 5 points.

Continuing his climb, Torre beat countryman GM Joey Antonio in the seventh round for his third straight victory after a shaky start that saw him drop two of four games.

Torre will face longtime rival Adianto in the eighth round, with the winner closing in on one of two world championship berths offered to the 1-2 finishers of the tournament.

Nursing slim chances of advancing at 4.5 points are Filipino IM Ronald Dableo, the 2003 champion of the event; Wynn, Mongolian GM Tu Hoang Thai and Filipino NM Oliver Barbosa.

Dableo and Barbosa split the point Wednesday and must win their last two games to keep their dream of advancing to the world championship set in San Luis, Argentina, starting Sept. 27.

Antonio bowed out of contention at 4 points. He's tied with compatriots IM Jayson Gonzales and Fide Master Oliver Dimakling and Vietnamese Super GM and top seed Dao Thien Hai



QUE: In strong contention

Que 2 shots off Jaidee in Singapore

SINGAPORE—THAILAND'S SINGAPORE—THAILAND'S Thongchai Jaidee overcame a stuttering start to shoot a four-under-par 67 and share the first round lead of the \$2 million Singapore Open on Thursday.

Tied with Jaidee were American Anthony Kang of the United States and another Thai Chapchai Nirat.

Filipino Angelo Que was just two shots off the pace following a 69, while compatriot Frankie Mifloza was also in good position at 70.

The other Filipino bets, however,

er, started badly with Danny Zarate carding a 75, Cassius Casas firing a 77 and Jerome Delariarte and Gerald Rosales shooting 82s.

Starting his round on the par-four 10th, the 35-year-old bogeyed his first and fourth holes before a solitary birdie on the 15th enabled last year's Asian Tour order of merit winner to reach the turn on one-over-par 36.

The seven-time Tour winner then moved up a gear on the lush Serapong Course, stringing to-

gether an impressive run of five birdies in seven holes to surge up the leaderboard and set a challenging target for the afternoon starters.

Sharing second spot, one stroke behind Thongchai, are New Zealand's Mahal Pearce and American Edward Loar, who both shot bogey-free rounds of 68.

Australian Marcus Both and Malaysia's Danny Chia are a further stroke adrift on two-under-par.

Returning after a three-year hiatus as the richest Open on the

Asian Tour, the event at the island resort of Sentosa attracted a strong field of 144 players, led by world number one Adam Scott.

The 25-year-old Australian used the event as a warm-up for the President's Cup at the month and is one of the favorites for this title. He had already won April's Johnnie Walker Classic in Beijing.

One of the late starters, Scott birdied his opening hole and was on the

Agassi astounds; Davenport

NEW YORK—IN THE END JAMES BLAKE, like the rest of Flushing Meadows, had no choice but to embrace the legend.

Andre Agassi's astounding recovery from two sets and a break down to win their all-American US Open quarterfinal started on Wednesday, finished on Thursday and will be remembered for years.

The 35-year-old with the bad back completed a 3-6 3-6 6-3 6-3 7-6 victory with a forehand service return that plopped perfectly on to the junction of baseline and tramline nine minutes after one o'clock in the morning.

"I don't know if I've ever felt this good here before," said the eight-time Grand Slam champion, who will play another American, Robby Ginepri, in the last four.

"All this support means the world to me. It just felt great.

"I never felt like I was going to win that match but somehow it just fell my way."

On a day when American world number one Lindsay Davenport was beaten by a Russian with one of the worst serves in women's tennis, Agassi and his wild card opponent combined to send the host nation's spirits soaring.

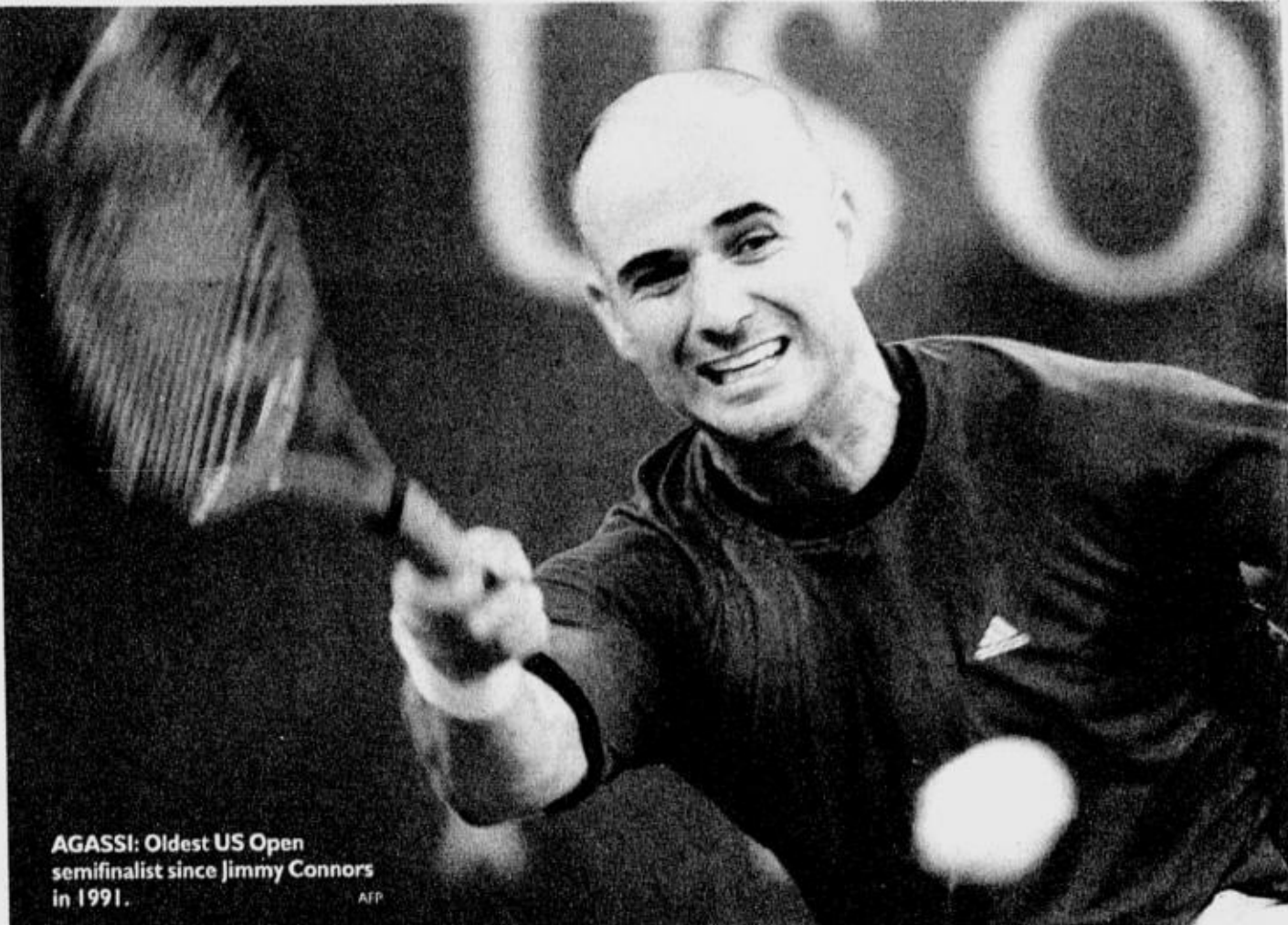
Blake, who had saved one match point with a forehand punch down the line, bore his scarcely deserved defeat with the grace of a man grateful to have played his part in a great sporting moment.

"It couldn't have been more fun to lose," said the 25-year-old as he congratulated a player he admits is his idol at the net.

"I want to see you do it again." So too, do the 20,000 privileged souls who belated long beyond bedtime on Arthur Ashe Court and were rewarded with a come-from-behind classic.

Blake has endured enough pain outside tennis to keep his defeat in perspective. Last year he suffered two broken back vertebrae, lost his father to cancer and contracted a form of shingles that paralyzed half his face.

Agassi is the oldest US Open semifinalist since a 39-year-old Jimmy Connors reached the last four in 1991 and his victory over Blake, his second successive five-set win, showed talk of his retirement is premature.



AGASSI: Oldest US Open semifinalist since Jimmy Connors in 1991.

Davenport stumbled out of the tournament after a 6-1 3-6 7-6 defeat by sixth seed Elena Dementieva, who fully deserved her win despite serving 12 double faults to take her five-match tally to 62.

The Russian, runner-up last year, will face Mary Pierce in the semifinals after the rejuvenated Frenchwoman thrashed third seed Amelie Mauresmo, 6-4 6-1.

Davenport's defeat means the US will not have a representative in the women's semifinals for the first time since 1994. It was only the second time in the last nine US Opens that she has failed to reach at

least the semis.

Dementieva lost to compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova in last year's final and this time she could face another Russian, with top seed Maria Sharapova contesting the other semifinal against Belgian Kim Clijsters.

"It was a very tough match. I feel this is a lucky place for me," said the 23-year-old Muscovite, who saved one match point at 5-6 in the tiebreak before producing a backhand winner to take it 8-6.

Pierce, the 30-year-old 12th seed who knocked out Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne in round four, mesmerized Mauresmo, 6-4 6-1, to reach the last four at

Flushing Meadows for the first time.

Pierce won the last of her two Grand Slam titles in 2000 but a new approach to her mental and physical conditioning has helped her to rediscover her best form this year.

Unseeded American Robby Ginepri took a more tortuous but now-familiar route into his first Grand Slam semifinal, beating Argentine eighth seed Guillermo Coria in his third successive five-set triumph in the men's singles.

Ginepri needed six match points to beat the dogged Argentine, 4-6 6-1 7-5 3-6 7-5. Reuters

Discovery open to Lance return

AUSTIN, TEXAS—IF Tour de France champ Lance Armstrong wants to return to racing in order to keep his legacy intact, then he is welcome to rejoin the Discovery Channel team, manager Dan Osipow said on Wednesday.



ARMSTRONG

"Circumstances change and when you're dealing with an athlete who feels his legacy has been challenged, things change," Osipow said on Wednesday.

American's golden hero Armstrong said Tuesday he "will no longer rule out" an attempt to win an eighth straight Tour de France.

"When Lance got off the bike on July 24 in Paris after winning Tour number seven, we were all very much convinced he would never race professionally again," Osipow said.

"This is not to say at all a return is certain, it's just that Lance is a proud man and proud of his accomplishments.

"We will sit back and wait for him to decide and obviously he knows if he wants to return, the team will have him back." Seven-time Tour de France winner Armstrong, 33, raised the possibility of a comeback when he announced his engagement to rock star Sheryl Crow on Tuesday, although the seriousness of his comments were in doubt. AFP

Singh ready as \$5-M Canadian golf starts

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA—VI-JAY Singh, who was unable to defend his title at last week's Deutsche Bank Championship, is back to defend his Canadian Open crown which begins Thursday at the

Shaughnessy golf club.

Singh suffered back spasms recently while playing ping pong with his son, Qass, at their Ponte Vedra Beach home. But after resting for a week, Singh is ready

to return for this \$5 million dollar event.

"I was always able to defend a title on the PGA Tour and was disappointed not to be able to do so in Boston," said Singh, who won nine titles in 2004.

Last year, the Fijian-Indian won a three-hole playoff over Canada's golden hero Mike Weir, who was denied in his bid to become the first Canadian golfer to win his national championship in 50 years. AFP

Don't blame the PBA, says Encarnado

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, composed of the country's leading corporations, is not shirking its duty as a long-time supporter of the national basketball team.

"We have given our contribution to the country and that's on record," said former PBA chair and Sta. Lucia Realty team manager Buddy Encarnado, adding that disbanding the national team is not an option even though the Philippines has been suspended by the world basketball federation (Fiba) from all Fiba-sanctioned events.

Encarnado said the PBA has been supporting the Basketball Association of the Philippines in its Asian Games campaign. In the 1990 Asiad in Beijing, a PBA All-Star team, coached by former Sen. Robert Jaworski, copped the silver medal behind host China. Another PBA selection, mentored by Norman Black and made up mostly by San Miguel Beer marquee players, finished fourth in the Hiroshima Asiad in 1994; the PBA Centennial Team, handled by Tim Cone, placed third in Bangkok in 1998 while another PBA squad, coached by Jong Uichico, landed fourth in the Busan Asiad in 2002.

"The PBA was not being unpatriotic if it had expressed apprehension over the country's suspension by the Fiba," Encarnado said. "Don't blame us." The Philippines was suspended by the Fiba after the Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly expelled the Fiba-recognized BAP for reneging on an agreement it forged with the POC, the highest sports authority in the land. After the BAP was expelled, the POC approved the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation as its newest member, with former ABC secretary

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



general Moring Martelino as president.

In compliance with Fiba regulations, Martelino, seeking Fiba recognition, submitted documents that included the two conditions that must be met in order to be recognized as affiliated member of Fiba: 1. the officers are duly elected, and 2. the national federation is recognized by the highest sports authority in the country, the POC in this case.

However, Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann rejected Martelino's request for recognition, expelled the Philippines from Fiba and called the expulsion of the BAP as "political." Said Baumann: "Fiba's opinion is that it is inappropriate to use basketball as a sports-political game between opposing sides. As a consequence, Fiba cannot accept the POC's decision to remove one group in favor of another one."

For his part, BAP president Joey Lina said he would appeal to the POC to reconsider its decision expelling the BAP, adding that as a sign of good faith the BAP would even amend its own constitution and by-laws in response to the concerns raised by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco that the BAP secretary general has awesome powers, which include the authority to replace the association president anytime. The current BAP secretary general is the controversial Graham Lim, who is

facing deportation.

Cojuangco said the BAP should appeal its case to the members of the POC general assembly and not to him because the expulsion of the BAP was not his sole decision. "I wish Lina would stop appealing to me because I'm not the POC," Cojuangco said. Still, Cojuangco sounded optimistic that things could still be ironed out when he was quoted as saying just the other day the BAP has to convince the 33 national sports associations that voted for its expulsion to regain its POC membership.

In any case, what is important now is for the contending parties to come to terms and pave the way for the country's return to the Fiba, thus allowing our athletes to play in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments, including this year's Southeast Asian Games. We cannot waste much time by blaming each other. The ball is now in the court of the POC, the BAP and the PBE

ON THE PBA FRONT: Sta. Lucia Realty team captain Dennis Espino suffered leg injuries during weight training the other day when a heavy leadweight fell on him, cutting his legs which needed several stitches.

"Talagang accident-prone si Dennis," said SLR team manager Buddy Encarnado. "He always figures in accidents every time a PBA conference is about to open." Doctors said the injuries will take from three to four weeks to heal...The Red Bull Barako will take on Sta. Lucia Realty in an exhibition game at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, at the New Era College gym to kick off the PBA pre-season series. On Sept. 18, Fiesta Cup defending champion San Miguel Beer plays Air21 Express at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.



QUADRUPLE-TEAM

Four San Beda Red Cubs gang up on prolific Ateneo Eaglet Kieffer Ravena, son of pro-cager Bong Ravena, during the championship match of the BEST Center's Small Basketeers Philippines tournament at the Rizal Coliseum last Sunday. The Red Cubs survived the Eaglets, 59-55, to bag the NCR title. BEST Center's SBP and Passerelle leagues drew 61 teams in Luzon, 37 in the Visayas and 77 in Mindanao this season.

'Stagfighter' battle on

WHO will be the next Stagfighter of the Year of Pasay Cockpit Cocks Association (PCCA)? The PCCA 4-Stag Derby series begins today at the Pasay City Cockpit with 30 entries hoping to jumpstart their respective bids for the elusive title. On tap today are 62 fights to be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. At the close of 2005 cocking season recently, Rey Briones (BRB Spartans) bagged the PCCA Cocker of the Year title, with Jake Macasat (Greenwood) settling for second place. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

Marzo rules Showdown

WORLD Slasher champion Boy Marzo and his Bulalayaw Sweater-Gilmore crosses scored six wins in seven matches in the finals to capture

SPORTSWATCH

the 2005 National 7-Stag Showdown Derby title yesterday at Roligon Mega Cockpit. The derby sponsored by Thunderbird Platinum and Enerstone featured 104 entries. Marzo's stags posted two wins in the 3-stag eliminations. With partner Cris Milla, Marzo's BM Bulalayaw entry demolished Sureshot Fatman of Peplito Ngo, Wild na Wild of Edmund and Philip Chiongban, Estrella of Boy Javier and the MTJ Brothers, EYB Air Assault of Ferdinand-Ampil brothers-Edwin Baccud. The victory was Marzo's second title since 2002. Tomorrow, Boy's BM Bulalayaw Game Farm will conduct a one-day sale, sponsored by Thunderbird. Also with 6-1 cards were JU Guhit Na of James Uy, JPE SLY I of Jun Pe and Vertical Limit of Tonton Uy.

TS

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par after six.
Of the other invited players,
Britain's Lee Westwood and Aus-
tralia's Nick O'Hern were handily
placed after posting even-par
rounds of 71 in the morning,
while Craig Parry of Australia
stood on two-under-par after six
holes.

Defending champion from the
2001 tournament Thaworn
Wiratchant was one-over-par af-
ter six holes, while the 2000 win-
ner, Jyoti Randhawa of India,
stumbled to a three-over-par 74.

Reuters

rt exits

ABC-5 invests on equipment to attract fans

TELEVISION NETWORK ABC-5 IS LOOKING
to invest in a million-dollar equipment to lure
more advertisers to the Philippine Basketball
Association.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said one of the in-
novations floated by ABC-5 to retain the exclusive
television rights of the pro league was virtual ad-
vertising, a concept where advertisements remain
visible only to television audiences.

Virtual advertising is created by a technology
called "pixel plasticity" which could project im-
ages on the television screen that could not be
found anywhere inside the coliseum.

A check on the website of PCF Virtual, a leading
virtual advertising company in Asia, revealed that
the technology could cost ABC-5 at least \$1 mil-
lion to purchase.

It includes the software, equipment, installa-
tion, and the technical know-how needed to oper-
ate the machine.

"ABC-5 promised to give the league a more
synergized marketing campaign and advertising
strategy. Virtual advertising is one of advertising
components they (ABC officials) have offered,"
said Eala.

Owned by Tony Boy Cojuangco, the network
had won the bidding war over Solar Entertainment
after assuring the league unlimited access to
airtime and a financial package close to P200 mil-
lion spread in three years.

Eala said it was the proven track record of ABC-
5 and the network's willingness to improve the
marketing side of the league which attracted the
PBA to the proposal.

June Navarro

Guidicelli revs up title drive

CEBU CITY—REIGN-
ING Karter of the Year
Matteo Guidicelli didn't
let the hometown crowd
down as he ruled the
premiere ICA Open class
recently in the sixth leg
of the 2005 Aboitiz-Shell
Superkarting Series at
the Kart Zone track
here.

With the win,
Guidicelli is on his
way for a back-to-back
Karter of the Year plum as he wrested the
overall lead in this event sponsored by the
Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp., Honda Phils.
Inc., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by
Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway
Motorcycle Racing, Aeromed, Aviva Insurance,
2GO and Aboitiz Transport Systems Corp.
(ATSC).

The triumph likewise arranged for Guidi-
celli a championship showdown this October
against Asian Karting Queen Michele Bum-
garner, who was actually 10 points ahead prior
to the race.

He wrapped up the 26-lap race in
13:37.338 or just 0.139 seconds ahead of fel-
low Cebuano karter Jess Garcia. Mark Bum-
garner and Birel's Indy Villallon finished third
and fourth, respectively.

Michele wound up last in the six-man pack
as she was forced out of the race with six laps
to go due to engine problems.

But Guidicelli wasn't as lucky in the Rotax
Max Seniors class where he finished fourth.

Birel driver Marlon Stockinger ruled the
said race clocking 12:11.637, or a far 2.861
seconds ahead of the returning Blake Go and
third placer Mark Bumgarner.

Cebuano Paco Rodriguez topped the Rotax
Max Novice class over Dino Jacinto.



GUIDICELLI



MARIELLE BENITEZ

Getting a kick out of the love of her life

By Musong R. Castillo

BRAINY AND ARTICULATE, PRETTY
and financially stable at 23,
Marielle Benitez can live comfort-
ably doing whatever she wants
and becoming whoever she
wants to be.

A psychologist. A marketing exec-
utive perhaps? A tennis player or
gymnast? She has the skills to dance.
Who would have thought that
she'd end up in a football pitch,
running and kicking in the
scorching heat?

"I fell in love with the sport, I
guess," said the midfielder of
the national team. "I've al-
ways been into sports, but
the moment I tried out soc-
cer with some of my
friends, I knew this was
the game for me."

A holder of degrees
in psychology and mar-
keting management
from De La Salle Uni-
versity, the 5-foot-6,
two-time UAAP Most
Valuable Player has man-
aged to shy away from a cor-
porate life despite abundant
qualifications, and instead opt-
ing to give all of her time and en-
ergy to serving the national team.

"This is my life now," said Benitez.

"I have so much pride in being a Fil-
ipino and playing [in] international
[competitions] and wearing the Philippine
jersey gives me a high I can't explain."

Marielle has been a member of the Philippine
eleven for the last six years. In 2003, she was ac-
corded the athlete of the year award by the
UAAP, making her the biggest name in the elite
collegiate multi-sport meet that year.

Not that the award was a surprise. La Salle
had a perfect 2003 season as well after the Lady

Archers ruled the Samsung NCRFA, the
Unigames, the Metro Manila Girls' Foot-
ball Association and the UAAP without
dropping a match. Marielle won her
second UAAP MVP that year, scoring a
total of 24 goals in those four events.

A niece of Helen Benitez, the coun-
try's first lady senator, the only thing
that Marielle does that has a semblance
of being called a job is occupy a coordi-
nator's position in the sports develop-
ment department of the Philippine
Women's University.

"My job there is to help the university
get back into the WNCAA," Marielle
said. "I am helping out the department
build women's teams in volleyball, taek-
wondo, tennis and badminton."

Football practice at the Ultra in Pasig
City takes up the chunk of her evenings,
and her social life now is limited to din-
ner and movies with friends.

"I'm just not the type to stay out late.
It won't help my game."

The Philippine team is a darkhorse in
the football competition of the Games,
but Marielle believes that they have a
strong chance. She said a bronze medal
would be an easy target for them.

"But we will go all out for the gold,"
said Marielle, who was in the Athens
Olympics last year as a member of the
Bayanihan Dance Troupe that was part
of the opening-day show. "This team is
being prepared like never before. Only
now do I feel that we are preparing for a
tournament."

Marielle, on the Dean's List at La
Salle for three semesters, sees herself
hanging up her spikes in two years' time
at the soonest before pursuing a third
degree—sports psychology.

And then maybe plunge into the cor-
porate jungle finally?

"Not really, the country needs sports
psychologists," she smiled. "The nation-
al team might still need my help."

'I have so much pride in being
a Filipino and ... wearing
the Philippine jersey gives me
a high I can't explain'

No turning back for RP mountaineers

By Jasmine W. Payo

AMID THE BITING COLD AND GALE-
force winds, veteran mountaineer Leo
Oracion knew there was no turning
back.

As one of only three Filipino climbers
left to scale the punishing Mt. Muztagh Ata
along the Pakistan-China border, Oracion
admitted he just wanted to get it over with.

"It was very difficult because of the
weather conditions," said Oracion. "At that
time, I was only thinking of putting the flag
and taking a picture. I had no time to look
around or even enjoy the moment because
of the strong winds."

But that fleeting moment on Aug. 25
still proved to be a historic feat for the
Philippines. At 7,546 meters (24,758 feet),
it was the highest peak any Filipino moun-
taineer has ever climbed.

Only Oracion reached the summit. As
the weather grew harsh, he had to ask fel-
low climbers Karina Dayondon and Erwin
Emata to turn back.

Getting dangerous

"They were almost at the peak but I had
to tell them to turn around because the
weather was changing," said Oracion. "It
was getting dangerous."

Too dangerous, in fact, that lives were
lost in previous expeditions. During his
lone ascent, Oracion saw the bodies of two
Germans who were reported lost three
days earlier.

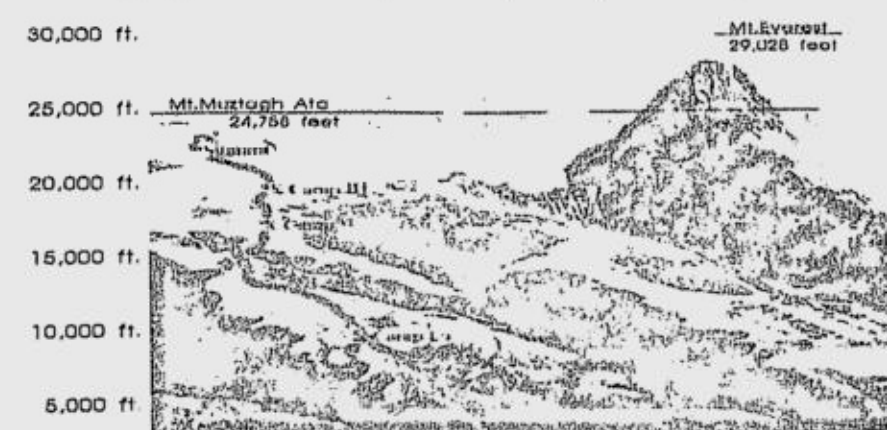
Dayondon, the only Filipina in the sev-
en-member team, confessed that there
were times she felt scared.

"I tried not to think about the height,"
she said. "My focus was just to climb the
summit. I didn't want to get too nervous."

Not used to the alpine environment, the
Filipino climbers all ended up with frost-



ON A HIGH: The First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team, led by Art Valdez (second from right), with teammates Ariel Ambayec, Dr. Ted Esguerra, Karina Dayondon, Regie Pablo, Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata, on their departure for Pakistan. Last month, they became the first Filipinos to conquer the peak of Muztagh Ata on the border of China and Pakistan (below).



bites and other illnesses. Member Ariel
Ambayec suffered a mild stroke.

"He cannot move and he was suffering,"
said expedition leader Regie Pablo, who

asked Oracion, Emata and Dayondon to
continue the climb. "Almost all of us had
frostbite in our feet but mine was the
worst. I also lost 10 kilograms. But it was

all part of high-altitude mountaineering."
The team also included Levi Nayanga-
han and team physician Ted Esguerra.

Real test

The climb, though, was just all part of
training. The real test will come when they
scale Mt. Everest, the world's most famous
and highest peak, in 2007.

Art Valdez, leader of the First Philippine
Mt. Everest Expedition Team, was very
proud of his members' recent success.

"The Philippine team was the least in
number, least equipped and had the least
time to acclimatize in the mountain," said
Valdez. "They were also carrying their own
loads compared to the other nationalities
who had porters. Despite all these handi-
caps, it's a testimony of the Filipino's
toughness and dogged determination."

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Keep texting your entries to 2600!

Promo is until October 15, 2005. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit #2445, Series of 2005. For Metro Manila deliveries, tumawag lang sa Gen-U-Win Gasol Delivery Hotline at (02) 737-8000.



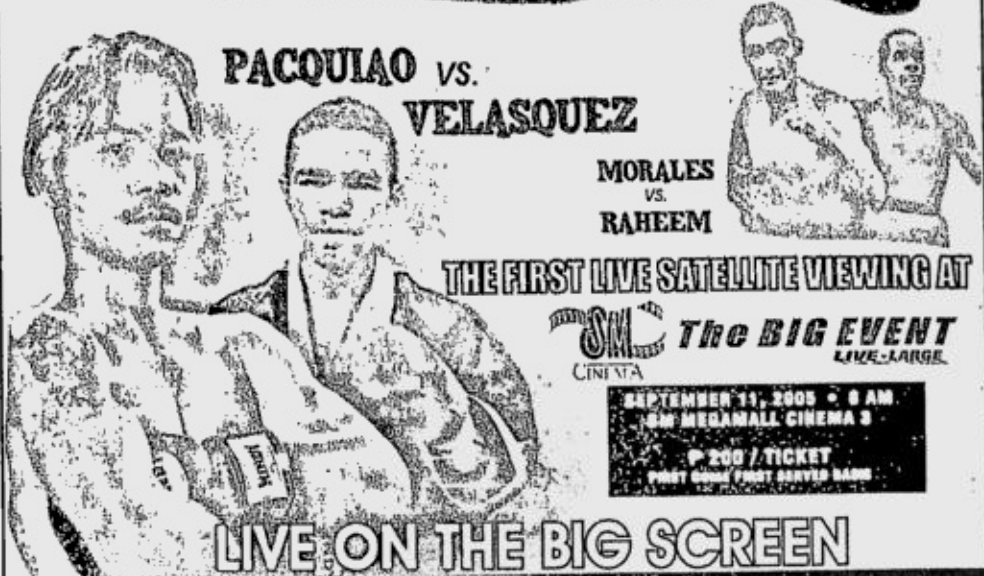
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2. BROS. GRIMM 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:35/05:15 08:20FS/09:00LMF/11:00END	2. BROS. GRIMM 11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END	
MEGAMALL	3. RED EYE 11:58FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:19/05:45/07:36 08:03FS/09:30LMF/11:05END	
1. THE CAVE 10:45FS/11:10MF/01:15/03:20/05:25/07:30 09:10FS/09:40LMF/11:20END		

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3. BROS. GRIMM	3. SKELETON KEY	3. LONG WEEKEND
4. DUKES OF HAZZARD	4. RED EYE	4. LONGEST YARD
5. LONGEST YARD	5. LONGEST YARD	5. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
6. THE CAVE	6. THE CAVE	6. SKY HIGH
7. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	7. BROS. GRIMM	7. DUKES OF HAZZARD
8. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	8. SKY HIGH	8. RED EYE
9. LONG WEEKEND	9. LONG WEEKEND	
10. LITTLE MERMAID	10. EVIL EYES	
11. EVIL EYES	11. DUKES OF HAZZARD	
12. SKELETON KEY	12. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	

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2. SKY HIGH	2. SKY HIGH	2. THE CAVE
3. THE CAVE	3. THE CAVE	3. LONG WEEKEND
4. LONGEST YARD	4. BROS. GRIMM	4. SKELETON KEY
5. RED EYE	5. LONG WEEKEND	5. SKY HIGH
6. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	6. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	6. LONGEST YARD
7. SKELETON KEY	7. LONGEST YARD	7. RED EYE
8. THE GREAT RAID	8. DUKES OF HAZZARD	8. DUKES OF HAZZARD
9. DUKES OF HAZZARD	9. THE GREAT RAID	9. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
10. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	10. SKELETON KEY	10. TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER SUIAT	SM CITY BICULAN	SM SAN LAZARO
1. BROS. GRIMM	1. RED EYE	1. RED EYE
2. THE CAVE	2. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	2. BROS. GRIMM
3. RED EYE	3. THE CAVE	3. THE CAVE
4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	4. BROS. GRIMM	4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA	SM CITY BACOR	SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. LONGEST YARD	1. DUKES OF HAZZARD	1. RED EYE
2. SKY HIGH	2. SKY HIGH	2. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3. SKELETON KEY	3. RED EYE	3. DUKES OF HAZZARD
4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	4. SKY HIGH
5. SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS	5. BROS. GRIMM	
6. EVIL EYES	6. THE CAVE	
	7. LONGEST YARD	
	8. D' ANOTHERS	

SM CITY BAGUIO	SM CITY MARILAO	SM CITY DAVAO
1. RED EYE	1. THE GREAT RAID	1. VALAINT
2. BEWITCHED	2. SKY HIGH	2. ICE PRINCESS
3. SKELETON KEY	3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	3. LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	4. VALTANT	4. SKELETON KEY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU	SM CITY ILOILO	SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. THE CAVE	1. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	1. THE GREAT RAID
2. BROS. GRIMM	2. RESERVED	2. MUST LOVE DOGS
3. RED EYE	3. SKELETON KEY	3. MAN OF THE HOUSE
4. BEWITCHED	4. BEWITCHED	4. SKELETON KEY
5. LONG WEEKEND	5. ARAHAN	
6. LISENSYADONG KAMAO	6. VALAINT	
7. WEDDING CRASHERS	7. RESEVED	
8. MUST LOVE DOGS	8. MUST LOVE DOGS	

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	RED EYE	BROS. GRIMM	SKY HIGH	THE CAVE
1	11:20, 2:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13			
2		12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13		
3			1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP	
4				1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

RINO ABALOS HIT the key basket as New Era downed University of Manila, 83-81, yesterday to clinch the top semifinal slot in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) junior basketball tournament at the NEU Gym.

STANDINGS W L

Juniors

New Era	10	2
St. Clare	9	1
UM	8	2
UMak	4	7
Amacu	4	7
HAU	1	7
BCSCMC	0	10

Abalos' three-pointer gave the Baby Hunters an 83-77 cushion with only one minute and seven seconds left and doomed UM, whose senior team has been lording it over the competition since 2001.

New Era posted its 10th victory in 12 games to formally claim the top spot in the next round which comes with a twice-to-beat incentive.

UM sank to third place at 8-2 although its semis chances remain high considering the next teams in the standings (University of Makati and AMA) only carry identical 4-7 cards.

Mel Pepito, a 6-foot-3 forward who is now among the leaders in the MVP race, scored a career-high 26 points aside from grabbing 17 rebounds to lead the Baby Hunters.

Pepito also enjoyed a lot of help from Elmer Acuna, Mark Sarmiento and Abalos, who combined for 18 of the Baby Hunters' 22 points in the final quarter.

Marc Anthony Reyes

The scores:
NEU 83—Pepito 26, Acuna 11, Abalos 11, Sarmiento 10, Magalang 8, Capistrano 8, Tanuan 6, Sanico 2, Villados 1, Tagal 0, Castillo 0.

UM 81—Gobis 28, Manalo 19, Lopez 13, Gomez 10, Rabalo 5, Bilonio 4, Estacio 2, Lacap 0, Sadsad 0, Hernandez 0
Quarters: 22-17, 42-41, 61-60, 83-81.

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THE CAVE	SKY HIGH	THE LONG WEEKEND
PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	GP 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
RED EYE	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	THE BROTHERS GRIMM
PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	PG13 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10	PG13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

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Milo run kicks off in Iloilo Sunday

From page A32

Apuhin, from West Negros College in Bacolod City, is under pressure to pull off a second straight win.

Marigen Campos, the 19-year-old, who lost last year's women's race as a heavy favorite, hopes to redeem herself this time along with 2003 third placer Genevieve dela Peña.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races will get a crack at the P75,000 prize at stake for the king and queen of the 29th Milo Marathon finals.

Aside from the 21K event, the annual foot race, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smartkid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar, also offers trophies, medals and cash prizes to the top 5K and 3K runners.

Mayor Jerry P. Treñas has been invited to fire the starting gun.

Councilor Jose Espinosa III, chair of the organizing Iloilo City Sports Council, said all participants should be at the starting area at the J.M. Basa St. fronting Iloilo City's Freedom Grandstand by 5 a.m. for check-in and last-minute instructions.

The 29th Milo Marathon wraps up its qualifying races in Santiago City in Iloilo abela next week.

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GALLERIA

632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

6 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

3 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

4 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA

638-7809 to 12

1 RED EYE

12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

2 THE LONGEST YARD

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 THE CAVE

12:30 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

2 THE CAVE

12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

4 SKY HIGH

11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

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4 RESERVE

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3 THE CAVE
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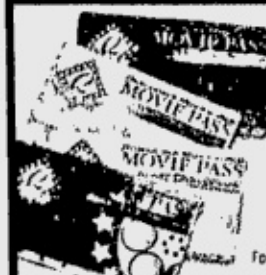
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2 ARAHAN
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

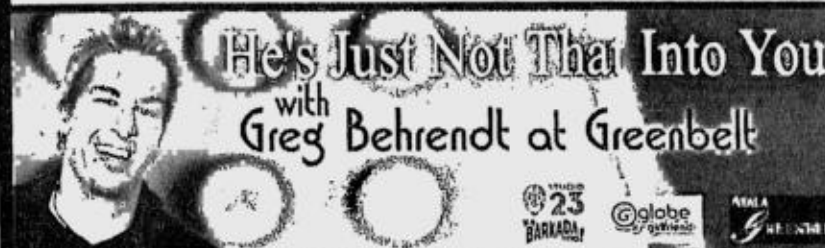


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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 LONG WEEKEND	2 THE CAVE	3 RED EYE	4 SKY HIGH
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	2 RED EYE		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	2 RED EYE		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 RED EYE	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM		
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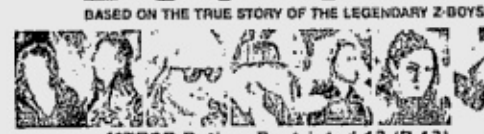
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BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF THE LEGENDARY Z-BOYS



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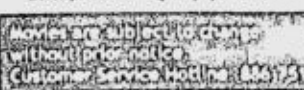
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SPORTS

MY Games Invt'l set next month

Competitions to serve as dry run for Asean Para Games in Manila

WITH THE 3RD ASEAN PARA GAMES IN DECEMBER as a future target, the country's premiere city has started sprucing up various facilities in preparation for the First Manila Youth Games (MY Games) National Invitational scheduled Oct. 23-30.

Ali Atienza, head of the Manila Sports Council

(Masco), said 34 major LGUs have already confirmed their participation in the national event being organized by the city government's sports arm.

"Outstanding performers of the annual MY Games will compete with the best 17-under athletes from other local government units in this first-ever LGU-initiated national sports competition," said Atienza.

"This event will also serve as a dry run for the city and will certainly boost our preparations for the Asean Para Games which Manila is hosting this December."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the improvement of sports facilities is part of the city's continuing effort to improve sports and recreation venues for the youth in line with the Buhayin ang Maynila program.

The MY Games National Invitational will initially feature athletics, swimming, taekwondo, football, little league softball and baseball.

The refurbishment of the San Andres Sports

and Civic Center in Malate, which will serve as the nerve center for the Games, as well as the site for taekwondo, has already been completed.

Other targeted venues are the University of Sto. Tomas for little league softball and baseball, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines for athletics, the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex for swimming, and the Rizal Park for football.

The young Atienza added that renovation of the Del Pan Sports Complex in San Nicolas, the Dapitan Sports Complex in Sampaloc and the Patricia Sports Complex in Hermosa have already been finished, while plans for the improvement of the Tondo Sports Complex in Sto. Niño has been finalized for implementation.

The National Invitational will be patterned after the Manila Youth Games—the city's successful multisports competition for the youth.

Last year's edition of the MY Games attracted over 10,000 athletes from the 897 barangays and 130 public and private schools in the Big City.



DENNIS Lobaton (779), Eric Panique (824) and Renie Desuyo (296), last year's 1-2-3.

Penultimate leg of Milo run Sunday

ILOILO CITY RENEWS ITS PASSION FOR running when it hosts the penultimate regional leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon this Sunday.

Three-time leg winner Dennis Lobaton of the Philippine Army and Irene Apuhin will try to reassert their superiority in the 21K races that will produce six more qualifiers to the national finals set Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

Lobaton is expected to be challenged by Eric Panique and Renie Desuyo while

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Race 4—1. Flying Strike 2. Boy from Brazil 3. Scene Stealer/I Don't Dance 4. Carte Blanche
Race 5—1. Hazitcoming 2. Deity 3. El Love Señora 4. Be My Pride
Race 6—1. Fiery Red 2. Queen Bearheart 3. Sir Golden Score 4. Speed Machine 5. Ruah
Race 7—1. Selectee 2. Wing Away 3. Desert Breeze 4. Caballero
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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Getting a nose lift at 15

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT WAS the network's idea. When it was first brought up in one of our meetings, I refused. I was scared," said Jonalyn Viray, "Pinoy Pop Superstar" grand champ, after admitting that she had a nose lift in July.

But Jonalyn, only 15, added: "Sa panahon ngayon, it doesn't hurt to try surgery, especially if you know it will help improve your personality. It didn't cause any problem with my singing, anyway."

In May, Jonalyn became the first winner of GMA 7's talent search. She took home a prize package worth P5 million. Two months later, Jonalyn went under the knife. She said the operation, performed by a doctor from the Belo Medical Group, lasted only an hour.

"I'm happy with my decision. It hurt for a couple of days, but not anymore," Jonalyn told entertainment writers during the launch of her debut album last week. "I've gotten used to it. I feel more confident now. What I really want is to grow taller. I used to take growth medicines, but I stopped."

In any case, Jonalyn, who turns 16 in November, said she wouldn't encourage girls her age to try cosmetic surgery. "Although if they're comfortable with it," she said, "then by all means they should try it."

Jonalyn had not had her surgery when she worked with director Louie Ignacio on the music video of her album's carrier single, "Close To Where You Are." The pictorial for the cover and other promotional materials for the album, "On My Own," was done before the operation, too.

What else did you change during your make-over?

The [GMA 7 bosses] said my *morena* look was perfect, so I didn't need body bleaching or anything. They just advised me to invest in clothes and accessories—but all casual stuff.

I wasn't asked to attend any personality development training, either. I just did a couple of mall tours and provincial show *para daw mas makilala ako*.

Didn't you feel insecure when Jerome Sala ("Search for a Star in a Million" champion on rival network ABS-CBN) released his debut album ahead of you?

Hindi naman po ako naiinggit. The decision to release the CD just now was the network's. All I can say is that GMA Records really prepared for my album, and I worked hard myself. I want to show everyone that I deserve to be the Pinoy Pop Superstar.

I waited months for this album, and now I'm very excited. GMA Records picked from the songs I sang on PPS. The original tunes were composed by Tito Vehnee Saruno.

What did you do with your P1 million cash prize (she also won a house and lot, a brand-new car and a one-year talent contract)?

The money is in the bank. I've already used a portion of it for my family's needs. I also use it to pay for my sibling's schooling. Our house is still under construction. It will be ready six to eight months from now. I still live in San Mateo, Rizal.

How is your relationship with your real mother? Did you have to ask her permission when you told your life story on "Magpakailanman"?

My mother and I are okay. We can't live under one roof anymore. She has her own family. My dad and I have our own life. We just help her financially. I didn't have the chance to discuss "Magpakailanman" with her. She had no negative reaction. Alam naman po n'ya ang ginawa n'ya.

TAKE
FIVE

Singing
champ
Jonalyn Viray
was scared
at first,
but
she's
happy
with
her
decision

NOW AWARDING STALLS
(FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED)

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Kenny Rogers Roasters

That old Cascading feeling in Manila

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FEEL AT HOME. This is only their second time to perform in the Philippines, yet the Cascades already have a connection with their fans here. They feel right at home. As a special treat, they're performing two original songs dedicated to their Filipino fans at their concert tonight at the Araneta Coliseum and tomorrow at the Manila Hotel.

During a break at rehearsals for one of the songs titled "My Manila," INQUIRER Entertainment sat down with Cascades members John Claude Gummoe, Gabe Lapano, Tony Grasso and Charles Crews who shared their thoughts about the group and their music.

What would you say is your best song?

Gummoe: It has to be "Rhythm of the Rain," because that is the best song from the old days. I don't think that's the best song I've ever written. There is a song on the new CD called "Who Hurts The Most" and I believe that's the best song I've ever written because of the subject matter—it's about how young children get hurt when their parents di-

vorce.

Are you surprised that Filipinos love your music?

Gummoe: I have known that the Filipinos are our biggest fans for decades. I don't know how it got back to me but I know it's true. Every cut on our first album is a hit here. That did not happen anywhere else in the world except here. I think it's because Cascades' songs are simple, romantic and easy to sing along with. And Filipinos, of course, love to sing.

Has your music changed over the years?

Crews: It has probably matured. What's amazing is that John sounds like John. Gummoe: Tony Bennett doesn't sound the same as he did [in his early days.] He still sounds great but not exactly the same.

How do you maintain your voices and keep the same harmony after all these years?

Gummoe: The vocal chords you use for singing are the same as any other muscle in the body. If you use it all the time, it will be in shape and it will sound good. If you don't, you lose it.

Lapano: Don't abuse it with

drugs, alcohol or cigarettes. Sing properly—from the diaphragm up.

Is this the original group?

Gummoe: I don't think any group will be all original members. I am a founding member. Tony came in, then Gabe in 1966. Chuck is the baby of the group—he's been with us for 15 years. There have been many Cascades through the years.

Crews: I have to keep them sounding young.

What makes this group special?

Crews: What makes this group original is we play the original Cascades sound. It has changed over the years. There was a time when it went country rock. You have to keep progressing and do new things. You can't always say, I made it with that sound and I've got to do that sound the rest of my life.

Lapano: What you have here is a unique situation because each one of us is a songwriter. And each one has done individual projects. And then we get together to do our Cascades projects. That makes it special.

Do you like any of the new



groups?

Gummoe: I like Alicia Keys. I like Brian Adams because of his voice and because he writes most of his own material. I like Shania Twain. In fact, I like country pop.

Crews: I like Brian McKnight although he's not that new.

What's missing from today's music?

Gummoe: Melody, I think.

Crews: The chord structures are not very involved but we're not putting it down. Everybody out there is good. We may not like rap music, but a lot of other people do. But it's not the same as the music we grew up with.

Can you imagine today's music lasting as long as yours did?

Gummoe: Maybe some.

Crews: I don't think it will last as long as The Beatles' songs.

How would you describe your music?

Lapano: Since everybody is a songwriter, everybody is individual and diverse. That diversity makes the Cascades sound. A little country, a bit of pop, rock, ballad, blues, melded together makes the Cascades.

When was your last studio album?

Gummoe: There was an album that came up in 1997. Somebody raided the vaults of RCA/Victor and came up with "The Very Best of the Cascades." By 2002 it was out of the market. If you can find one, it will probably be a collector's item. "After the Rain" will be our first album since 1997.

What inspired you to do it?

Gummoe: Some of the tunes were recorded in 1991, 1995, 2003. It is like a collection of songs

done over a 15-year period.

Your plans after the concert?

Gummoe: When we go back to the United States, we will be working on a new CD—the acoustic version of some old songs plus some new songs. We're planning a more extensive tour of Asia in May. Not just the Philippines, but also Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea.

Any thoughts on the Filipino talent?

Gummoe: I'm in love with Nina! Crews: There are so many people here who perform and sing well. I know there are a lot of Filipino acts in Japan and Las Vegas. Everybody knows that Filipino bands are the best. When I was a soldier in Vietnam, there were a lot of bands that came through but Filipino bands were the best. That's because you guys are serious about your music.

Christmas in September

LAST Sept. 1, WE WERE AWAKENED BY THE unexpected strains of Christmas carols emanating from the TV set in our living room. Were we dreaming? No, it was simply a morning show on free TV "welcoming" the start of the "ber" months with a four-months-early preview of the 2005 Yuletide season!

Only in the Philippines, indeed. They don't call us pushovers for Christmas for nothing. But, Christmas on Sept. 1 is too much even for us!

Not that there's anything wrong with thinking Christmas thoughts all year long. Trouble is, the local emphasis isn't on those thoughts of love and sharing, but on the more external and utilitarian aspects of Christmas—selling and buying presents, cooking up an expensive storm of Yuletide goodies, etc.

It's all excessively commercial, shunting genuine reverence and love for Jesus Christ to the sidelines, and focusing on the distractions of money and Mammon instead.

When Christmas is "celebrated" some four months before it actually takes place, it extends the gift-buying period to an inordinate length, the better for manufacturers and store owners to make a mint. But most everybody loses out, because the reason for the season has been co-opted by the cynical specter of excessive materialism.

Let's hope that some of our TV people act in a more judicious way, and postpone their commercial Christmas capers to, ah, Dec. 1? That'll help put the Christ back in Christmas—where He belongs!

Vilma's risk-taking spirit

VILMANIANS will be thrilled to know that their favorite star, Vilma Santos, is the subject of a long article in this month's Mr. and Ms. magazine. The new "super-monthly of the Body, Mind and Spirit" published and edited by Eggie Apostol pays tribute to the veteran actress' risk-taking spirit and rightly so.

In the '60s and '70s, Vilma had to play second fiddle to Nora Aunor in terms of popularity and awards. But she eventually decided to chart her own course and opted to play more "liberated" characters than Nora wanted to do, and the awards soon started coming her way.

The magazine's feature on Vilma also details how her exuberant, risk-taking spirit has prompted her to look beyond show business to be of service to people in the political field, as mayor of Lipa City.

One wonders where else Vilma's venture-some bent will take her—eventually, all the way to Malacañang? That is if hubby Ralph recto achieve what could be his and his wife's ultimate goal of service to the nation...

Interestingly, of course, another show biz

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



legend, Sharon Cuneta, and her husband, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, may also be aiming for the same upward trajectory. So, will the time eventually come when two of the entertainment world's "queens" will help their husbands do their best to attain the same political dream?

Of course, in this high-stakes derby, only one couple can win at any single time, so it'll be exciting to see whose dream first comes to pass...

This month's Mr. and Ms. Also features articles on Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras, the lighter side of Raul Roco, psychic powers, communing with spirits, self-healing, a guide to fantasy and sci-fi, the sex sense, restless spirits, and hedonistic mysticism.

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Sept. 9 at 6:30 a.m., "Avenging Angelo." 10:15 a.m., "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself." 3 a.m., "Normal."

On Cinemax, Sept. 9 at 4:15 p.m., "The Addams Family." 12:20 a.m., "The Evil That Men Do."

Christine Jacob

CHRISTINE Jacob will cut the ribbon at the opening of tile artist Bart Aguas' exhibition, "Glaze 'n Craze," at Nicotina Garden Pavilion on Sept. 10. The 31 pieces in the exhibit celebrate religious and ethnic motifs in Asia and the Middle East. Call 551-7906.

Christine is also scheduled to host the Catholic Mass Media Awards ceremony on Oct. 24, to be aired on IBC-13. And she's taping for the third season of "Mobile Kusina" on GMA-7. Contact telefax 721-0801.

Toti Fuentes

INTERNATIONAL musician Toti Fuentes returns to Manila to launch two albums, gifts of his foundation to helpful donors this Christmas. The album launch, "With Love in our Heart from Toti and Friends," will be held on Oct. 3 at Merk's Bar and Bistro. The first album, "Montet and Friends," features Ramon "Montet" Acoymo's duets with Ricky Davao, Alma Concepcion and other singers. The second, "Rico J. and Friends," has Rico singing with artists like Ivy Violan, Richard Merk and Jackielou Blanco. Call 0917-8991835.

DID YOU KNOW...

TERENCE YAU, managing director and chief executive of Hallmark Channel Asia Pacific, will soon be leaving the company. According to Sparrowhawk Media Group London Yau will "pursue other career interests."

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'Maximo' to the max ... From page A2-7

pines" and that digital filmmaking had "equalized expression in the Third World with that in First World countries."

He concluded: "We are poor but not in spirit." I myself said Filipinos were among the happiest people in the world despite all our problems, and thanked the organizers and jurors for making our country even happier with this award.

Later, we were told by other audience members that our "highly charged, emotional" acceptance speeches were the highlights of the evening.

So many of the participants in the festival—fellow filmmakers, cinephiles, journalists, organizers—rooted for us, in fact. They were so generous in expressing their appreciation and "love" for the film.

Everyone praised our actors, especially

Nathan Lopez who played Maximo.

Backstage, one of the jurors told us that, had there been an acting award to be given away, they would have unanimously voted for Nathan.

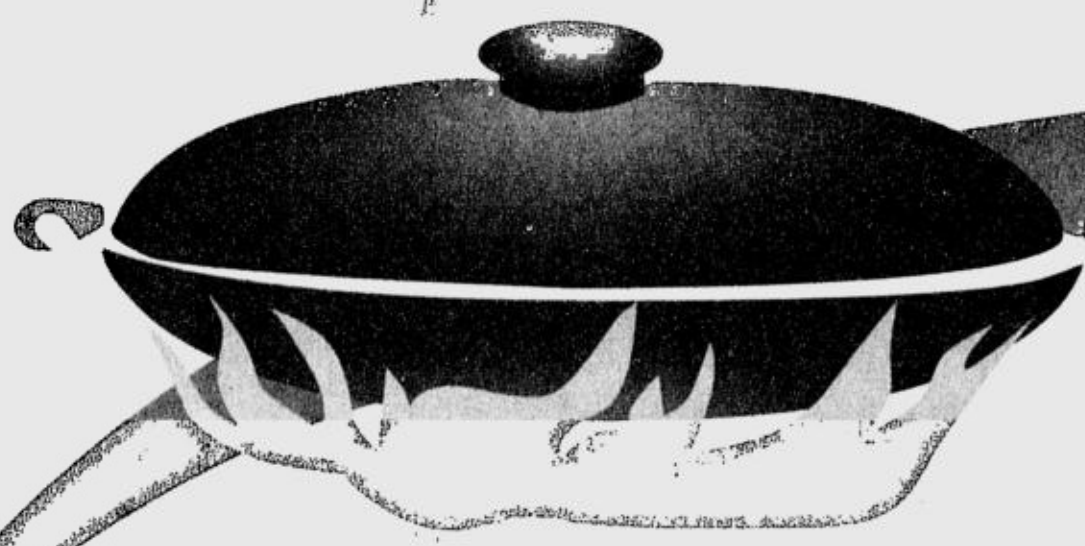
A number of the filmmakers, some in the same competition that we joined, said "Maximo" was the entry they liked best and that they spread the good word about it. Perhaps that was why we had an encore screening on the day of the awards ceremony.

They also said they were bowled over by the music. They kept asking about Pepe Smith (musical scorer), Mike Villegas (who wrote the love theme) and Bayang Barrios (who sang the love theme).

Another jury member thanked us for making a film that "moved them in a very deep way."

Knorr® Launches Search for
the Ultimate Cooking Dish

Makuhaka-sa Tikim!



On ABS CBN
Saturdays at
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There is no doubt that we are among the world's greatest food lovers. And this is exactly why our archipelago is home to thousands of Filipinas who are naturally passionate about cooking. These women thrive in creating and innovating. What they love most in life is sharing their talent and spreading their love for food.



The Search is On

Recognizing the Filipina's innate love and talent for transforming the simplest of ingredients into the most tasteful dishes, Knorr together with ABS-CBN launches *Makuha Ka sa Tikim*, the first nationwide search for The Ultimate Cooking Diva. From Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao, Knorr toured the islands and sought out the country's biggest cooking enthusiasts. Hundreds of women heeded the call and submitted their applications. They scoured Legaspi, Naga, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dagupan, Baguio, Mandaue, Cebu, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Davao, Pampanga and Manila in search of women with recipes to share and their story behind it. Qualified applicants went on to the regional finals in a cooking

showdown where they were asked to prepare their personal specialties using Knorr products. The different dishes were judged based on their taste and on the unique stories of how women used their cooking to their advantage.

And now Knorr proudly presents the 27 finalists who have made the cut and are now a step closer to winning the prestigious title as the Ultimate Cooking Diva.

The Eula and Jean Tandem

You've seen them argue time and again on screen. This time around, you'll get to see the very different sides of these two outstanding actresses as they join forces yet again as the hosts of *Makuha Ka sa Tikim* (MKST).

"We're very happy about this cooking show because it's really very different from what we've been doing before. We've done *teleseryes* and movies. This time we're doing hosting and cooking. It's something new and we're very excited about the show," shares Jean Garcia whose role as Madame Claudia has made her one of the industry's most memorable villainess.



On-screen nemesis and MKST co-host Eula Valdez couldn't agree more. "It's a breather from our usual work so it's really a welcome change for us," she quips.

Both are self-confessed food lovers and passionate cooks, so there couldn't have been a better choice than Jean and Eula for the show's hosts. Like the 27 finalists, Jean and Eula have their own stories and specialties which viewers will soon discover by watching the show.

Makuha Kayo sa Tikim

Take your first bite of this delightfully engaging new show and be prepared to get hooked on this deliciously entertaining new offering from Knorr and ABS CBN. Slated every Saturday at 10:30 in the morning, *Makuha sa Tikim* will showcase the cooking prowess of the Cooking Divas week after week.

Each episode, three finalists will go on a cooking showdown based on the week's given theme. They will be provided a cooking challenge and ingredients with which they can work with and after the allotted time, the finished dishes will be judged by a special jury of ten and an expert panel of judges. There will be one winner at the end of each month and the monthly finalists will go on for the title of The Ultimate Cooking Diva and the million peso grand prize on the final showdown.

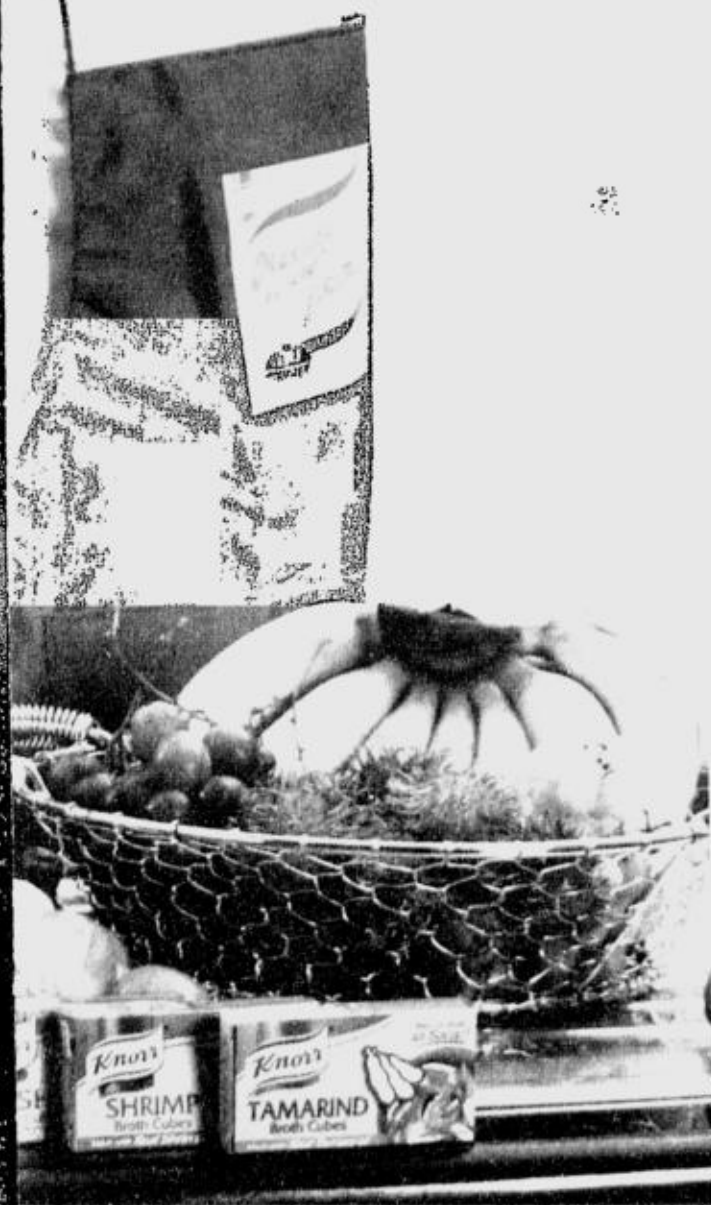
Makuha Ka sa Tikim is definitely one show you shouldn't miss. More than a cooking contest, it's a showcase of the heart that goes into cooking and the women from all over the country who partner with Knorr in wielding their natural culinary flair.

You will meet a mother who cooks with all her heart for her only son. A daughter who used her culinary skills to create a most irresistible peace offering for her Dad. A niece who went out of her way to make something extra special to cheer up her relatives after a beloved uncle passed away. A Singaporean comedienne married to a Filipino and is now learning to appreciate the local tastes and flavors. A dotting elder sister who used her cooking skills to tide the family over a financial crisis. Wives who use their cooking expertise to spice up their marriages. So be there to witness the 27 Cooking Divas as they unveil their powerful cooking prowess and engaging stories.



A woman's secret weapon

A believer in the power of the Filipina, Knorr picked real women --- mothers, girlfriends, wives and daughters --- who exemplify the woman of today. Using Knorr as their secret weapon, they have wielded their cooking prowess to turn any situation to their favor. With them, every dish has a story, and every story is a success she can share with other women like her.





Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

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September surprises at Dusit Hotel



THIS MONTH, DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S BENJARONG Royal Thai Restaurant will satisfy your food lust as it offers the Sue Rong Hai, Talay Krob Samun Prai, Lapu-Lapu Tod Kratiem, Gung Phad Prigrai Dam and Poo Tod Krob Phad Prigking.

Grandparents will be treated to a special set menu if they dine on Sept. 11 at Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant. Choose from the two (2) set menus prepared specially by chef Nguyen. And for busy executives, the "Executive Express" set menu is extended until September 2005. Consisting of salad, soup, main dish and dessert, guests

can choose from amongst the two (2) sets priced at P650++ and P700++ per person.

At Fiesta San Miguel, diners can either go for the 'Binagoongang Baboy na may Tagland at Gabi' or the 'Ginataang Sugpo at Tahong' or choose the 'Skewered' food items - a Filipino barbecue style comprised of meats or seafood served over a bed of grilled local vegetables. Without a doubt, these offerings will make your dining experience truly enjoyable.

The Café goes European as it offers Italian buffet dishes prepared on the spot through the Pasta

Show Cooking station. Diners get to enjoy the perks of dining at The Café. Guests dining with a minimum of five (5) persons availing of the lunch or dinner buffet will be treated to one (1) complimentary meal. This special treat is valid until Sept. 30.

It is 'Matsutake Delight' at Benaky Japanese Restaurant. The Matsutake is considered as the king of all edible mushrooms, that is why Benaky Japanese restaurant will have the 'Matsutake Festival' from Sept. 6 to 20, to give diners a taste of the various a la carte preparation for the Matsutake.

September bliss at City Garden Suites - Manila



THIS SEPTEMBER, CITY GARDEN Suites - Manila offers first class amenities and wonderful promos at attractive and affordable rates. For as low as P900 per person on twin sharing basis, one may enjoy the Hotel's elegant and comfy guest rooms inclusive of free scrumptious breakfast for two.

Café Miranda Bar & Restaurant launches the "Wine Flights Festival". With five packages to choose from and for as low as P205, the WFF package

1 consists of 3 wine flights from Italy, South Africa and Chile and comes with free baked garlic mushroom; priced at P225, WFF package 2 consists of 3 Merlot wine flights from Italy, South Africa, and Australia with free Spicy Green Shells; priced at P295, WFF package 3, consists of 3 Cabernet Sauvignon wine flights from Chile and free Crostinis; for packages 4 and 5, prices range from P335 to P525 inclusive are wine flights of Cabernet Sauvignon and Australian wines and free delicious pica-pica.

For the food lover, the "Executive Lunch Menu" priced at P199 is perfect to fill everyone's hunger.

Taste of Macau at Edsa Shang's Garden Café

SAVOR AN EXPLOSION OF FLAVORS at the "Taste of Macau" promotion of Edsa Shangri-La's Garden Café from Sept. 2 to 8.

The first European settlement in the Far East, Macau is immersed in 450 years of history. Much like the sights and sounds of the city, Macau's cuisine is colorful and robust with character. It developed its own identity by combining Eastern cooking methods, exotic spices and Western influences. It stands out among China's regional as a melting pot of distinct flavors and aromas originating from India, Malaysia, Portugal and Africa.

For Garden Café's "Taste of Macau", Edsa Shangri-La flies in

master chefs Wong Man Su, Chon Kin Kei and Wok Yuk Shan to prepare authentic Macanese specialties. Available in the buffet for lunch and dinner are African Chicken (grilled de-boned chicken marinated overnight in milk and coconut oil), Seafood Bouillabaisse Caldeirada (squid, mussels, garoupa and shrimps with potatoes, white wine and tomato sauce), Chicken in Coconut Flavored Curry Sauce (pan-fried chicken and potatoes with Portuguese red sausages), and Pork Trotter with Red Bean Stew (simmered with smoked sausages, vegetables and spices), to name a few. For inquiries, please call Restaurant Reservations at 633 8888 ext. 2738 and 2739.



'MORE THAN TAPAS' AT THE NEW WORLD HOTEL

New World Renaissance Hotel's posh restaurant Bocarinos offers its 'More Than Tapas' Tapas Bar for its diners during lunch and dinner. Partake of a selection of at least 12 types of mouth-watering tapas as well as other exquisite appetizers such as: Croquetas de Jamon, Patatas Bravas, Gambas al Ajillo, Tortilla de Patata, Pisto Manchego,

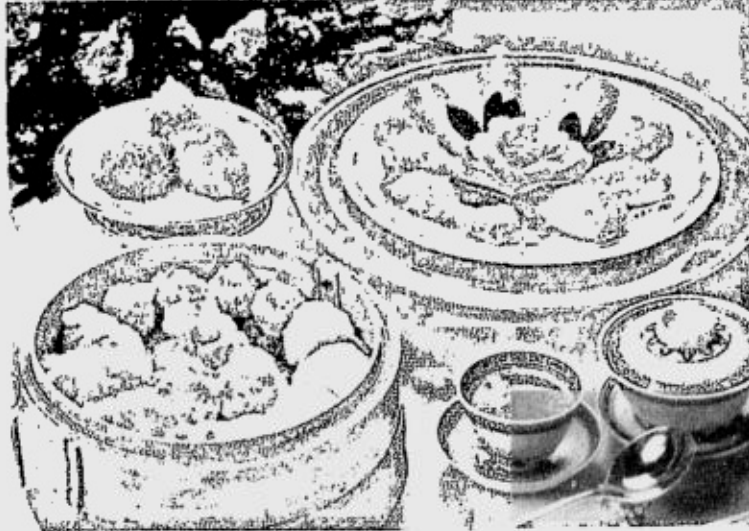
Aceitunas Alinadas, Pollo Relleno, Calamari a la Romania, among other delectable delights. The "More Than Tapas" Tapas Bar is offered at P495+ per person. Bocarinos is open Mondays to Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 6 to 10 p.m., and on Saturdays from 6 to 10 p.m. For reservations, please call 811-6888.

RIO BAR CAFÉ'S JOURNEY TO THE WEST

Rio Bar Café is proud to present its Chef Specials for this season - Journey To The West, a mesmerizing fusion of European and Mediterranean dishes. This unique combination is one set meal complete with soup - Cream Lavalier; your choice of the main course: Braised Glazed Pork loin Ranchero (glazed pork loin in fruit and honey sauce, with shallot marmalade and sweet potato mash - shown in photo); Mediterranean



Baked Stuffed Chicken; Seafood Strudel in Pastry; Medallion Fillet of Beef ala Rossini; and dessert - Fruit Compote in Cinnamon Tart. All main dishes are served with vegetables, potato wedges or steamed rice and coffee or tea.



LAS PALMAS HOTEL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Las Palmas Hotel, now on its 30th year is pleased to introduce its management team responsible for the smooth operations and continuous progress of the hotel. Photo shows the dynamic group composed of: (first row, sitting, from left) Sissie Alba - executive housekeeper, Anne Dizon - sales manager, Danilo Molina - resident manager, Cecille Soriano - chief accountant and Alma Lim - purchasing officer (second row, standing, from left) Beth Teodoro - general cashier, Elma Biteng - officer in-charge front office, Mindafior Bernal - F&B chief accountant, engineer Bert Sumagaysay - chief engineer, Rhyse Suiza - officer in-charge human resources department, Cynthia Balindoa - F&B supervisor and Lailani 'Ching' de Castro - banquet and catering sales manager.





NATHAN Lopez and JR Valentin in "Maximo"

'Maximo' to the max in Montreal

By Raymond Lee
Contributor

(INQUIRER Entertainment received this euphoric letter on Sept. 6, 10 p.m. Manila time, from Raymond Lee, line producer of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)." The movie won Best First Film at the just concluded Montreal World Film Festival.)

MONTREAL—WE WON! TWELVE hours ago at the closing ceremonies of the 29th Montreal World Film Festival, our little movie was proclaimed winner of the Golden Zenith award for Best First Film.

The jury, composed of Godfrey Cheshire (United States), Loic Magneron (France) and Paul Toutant (Canada) announced the prize, saying: "For its impressive

quasi-documentary style and its spirit of humanity and tolerance, the jury unanimously awards the Golden Zenith to 'The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros' from the Philippines."

The jury said it was "impressed... with the quality of the films in the competition."

The Silver Zenith went to "Truth or Dare" from Germany, the Bronze to "London" from the United States and Honorable Mention to "My Brother's Summer" from Italy.

Our director Aureaus Solito and I went up the stage to accept the trophy. Aureaus' voice broke with emotion and his speech moved many in the audience.

He said this honor was "empowering and inspiring to all independent filmmakers in the Philip-

'MAXIMO'/A2-3

ROUNDUP

Pinoys in Montreal

THERE were two other Filipino films in the just-concluded Montreal World Film Festival, where "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," won Golden Zenith in the First Films section.

Also screened was the full-length feature "Rigodon," written and directed by Sari Luch Dalena and Keith Sicat. Topbilled by Joel Torre, Chin-Chin Gutierrez and Arthur Acuna, "Rigodon" chronicles the "spiritual journeys of three Filipino immigrants—an aging boxer, a dreamy war bride and a rebel poet—in New York City whose lives intertwine in the age of racial profiling and government crackdowns."

Mark V. Reyes' "Last Full Show," which earlier won Best Short Film in Turin, Italy, was likewise screened in Montreal's Focus on World Cinema section.

Huk history

FRANCIS O. Villacorta is set to make his directorial debut in "Men of Destiny," a digital film set in World War II.

"A story of friendship and betrayal," the film stars Robert Correa and Nonie Buencamino in lead roles. Correa plays a Huk rebel and Buencamino portrays his best friend, who becomes a collaborator of the Japanese Imperial Army.

"There is much to learn from history," Villacorta said. "The Filipino is still at war with his circumstances and himself." Pre-production begins in the last quarter of the year.

'Stray Cats' with nine lives

BECAUSE its Manila and provincial screenings were well-attended, first-time director Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" (Stray Cats) is running on a return engagement in Metro Manila until Sept. 13.

Screenings are in select Manila theaters, as well as in other key cities—Baguio, Lucena, Balwag, Plaridel, Capiz, among others. Bayani San Diego Jr.

MTRCB PG-13 A WARNING TO PARENTS BRINGING IN CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD: THE FILM CONTAINS THE MENACING MONSTER AND BLOODY SCENES IN EXHIBITING THE HUMAN CREATIVITY

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NOW SHOWING

3 THE LONG WEEKEND PG-13
11:30, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25

4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG-13
11:20, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25

5 RED EYE PG-13
10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50

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Sept 15, 22, 23, 24
October 1, 2005
JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" M.Y.M.P.
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SHANG CINEPLEX

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12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM MTRCB PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

3 SKY HIGH MTRCB GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

4 THE LONG WEEKEND MTRCB R-13
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

PREMIERE THEATRE **THE CAVE**
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COUSINS. OUTLAWS. THRILLILLIES.

THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

01

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IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE" COMES THE GROSS-OUT COMEDY OF THE YEAR.

CHRIS KLEIN **BRENDAN FEHR**

THE LONG WEEKEND
TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.

NOW SHOWING

ENTERTAINMENT

'Desperadas' part 2: the quotable quotes

LOS ANGELES—LAST WEEK, WE DESCRIBED our trip down Wisteria Lane with the "Desperate Housewives." For this column, we picked some of the quotable quotes from the four actresses who star in the racy drama that's so successful, it's soon going to be aired even in China.

Eva Longoria (Gabrielle Solis)

I was surprised to hear that "Desperate Housewives" will be shown in China. They have very strict television guidelines. [I didn't think we'd ever be aired there] because we don't meet any of their requirements, especially with regard to my character.

I was talking earlier to a friend of mine from Utah, which is the Mormon capital of the world. He said many folks in Utah get together on Sunday nights to watch the show which is about everything that they supposedly despise.

When I didn't get nominated for a Golden

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



Globe (her three co-stars got nominated), some Latinos were ready to riot. That's when I realized the power of the Latino community. But I said, please not to do anything because it has nothing to do with me being Latin. It's funny that, even at the Emmys, I was not nominated, either.

But I didn't expect to be nominated at all. I think it's a hard category. It's hard to be let down when you didn't expect anything.

I have a personal trainer who drags me out of the bed kicking and screaming. I knew Gabrielle would be a sexy role but I didn't re-

alize how much lingerie I'd be in all the time. That's why I'm so excited to be pregnant on the show.

I'm like, bring on the maternity clothes! And more doughnuts, please. I said to Tony (Parker, her boyfriend, a basketball player with the San Antonio Spurs), "Hurry up! We're running two months behind. Gabrielle is already two months pregnant on the show. Let's go! No, just kidding (laughter)."

It's nice to know you're in a show where pregnancy in real life is welcome. I'm blessed to have a series creator like Marc Cherry, who told all of us, I'll write your pregnancy in whenever you guys want [to be pregnant in real life].

When I was on a soap opera, they forbade pregnancy. I had a no-pregnancy clause in my contract.

I also didn't realize how much I'd be in the bathtub. It's a pain in the butt to shoot in the bathtub. You're naked and they put body make-up on you so you look beautifully



LONGORIA: "It's hard to be let down when you didn't expect anything."

tanned and have flawless skin. But the make-up comes off in the water, so you're sitting in this brown water. They do all the tub scenes in one day to save water. So out goes Jesse (Metcalfe, who plays the teenaged gardener-boyfriend), in comes Ricardo (Chavira, as Gabrielle's husband), out goes Ricardo, in comes Jesse. I say, guys, can we space out the tub scenes?

I met Tony in the locker room. Everybody asks, what the heck were you doing in the locker room? I took my dad to a Spurs game. We're Spurs fans all our lives. They asked if my dad wanted to meet the players after the game. So we went and I met Tony in the locker room. He asked my dad to dinner. I tagged along. He didn't know who I was—which was kind of a miracle.

When I recently went onstage after winning a Teen Choice Award, I didn't know what to say to the teens. "Should I be appalled that you're watching the show, or you just like me because I've dated a teenager all season? What was I going to say to these kids? Why do they stay up late watching the show? I'm surprised that we did not get a backlash."

A friend of mine called and he goes, "You'll never believe what happened to my ex-wife. Her gardener tried to kiss her. You're empowering gardeners everywhere. This is your fault (laughter)."

My grandma wouldn't speak to me for a while. She doesn't really get the whole TV acting thing. She thinks it's real and it's happening. So she asked me, "Why were you with that boy on TV?" And my dad doesn't watch the sex scenes. But my mom thinks it's great.

Teri Hatcher (Susan Mayer)

It would be nice to have somebody take me out to dinner. Anyone I know who is single is having a hard time finding the right guy. I'm not saying that I'm sad about it. I am not desperately looking.

Felicity Huffman (Lynette Scavo)

I'm lucky. I am not recognized and I am not being followed. The other girls have people waiting outside their houses to follow them to the coffee shop. I can go out looking like hell, which I do most of the time. Today, I took a shower just for you, guys.

I came into my relationship with Bill already the great Bill Macy (the actor a.k.a. William H. Macy). I've always known he's the star and so I haven't tried to fight it. But lately, he is so relieved that when we go to the red carpet, now I'm the one who's pushed to the front right and he can coast. He is so happy for me.

Bill gives me parts because I sleep with him (laughter). I've done three or four little parts in his projects. They were small roles because I couldn't get past the producers. They always say, "No, we need a name."

Where I do get attention is at my kids' nursery school because the mothers come to me and say, "Oh, last night [on the show], that was exactly what I have been going through." Or, "I have that same breakdown." Or, "I had that fight with my husband."

My kids, who are 3 and 5, think that going to work is putting on make-up. That's what they do when we play and pretend work. We put on make-up and the work is done (laughter).

People have been waiting for us (the four leads on "Desperate") to fight even before we aired. I don't know what it is, but when you put women together, everyone expects catfights (laughter). Every week, we pick up a magazine and go, "I wonder who's fighting this week."

Marcia Cross (Bree Van De Kamp)

A delivery guy came to my house one day. After he dropped a package, he started laughing. I asked, what it was and he said, laughing, "You are so not Bree Van De Kamp [who is a perfectionist]."

I'm trying to be better. They called me Messy Marcia when I was growing up.

Working Mom Awardee says there are so many amazing things to learn about Vitamin C.

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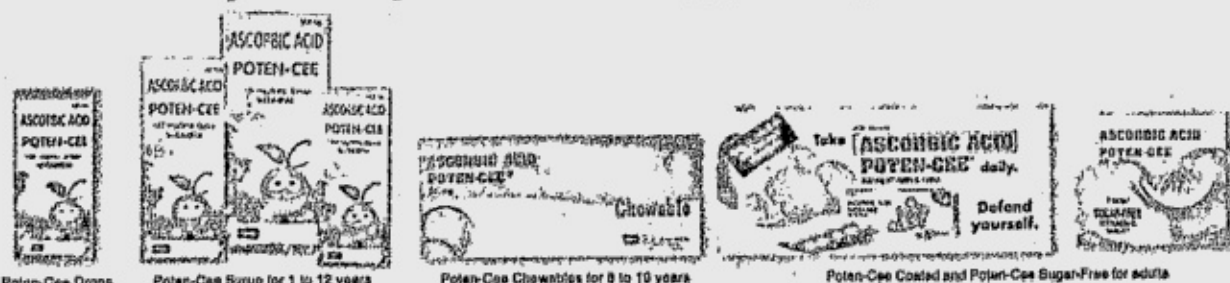
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RP sells \$1B worth of 10-yr bonds

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES SOLD \$1 BILLION worth of bonds maturing on Jan. 15, 2016, completing the government's financing requirement for this year and partially pre-funding that for next year.

This was the country's third international issue this year.

The Department of Finance said the debt offering was warmly welcomed by the international credit market. It said 37 percent of the total demand for the offering came from Europe, 34 from Asia, and 29 percent from the United States.

"We believe that this affirms investor confidence in the Philippines and the country's ability to move forward with the policy reforms necessary to sustain economic growth," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a statement.

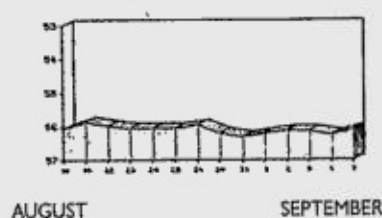
The DOF said the global bonds, which carry a coupon of 8 percent, were priced at 98.301 percent to yield 8.25 percent. Its spread was 410 basis points higher than US Treasuries.

The \$1 billion raised from the global bond offering was more than the \$850 million worth of remaining financing requirement for 2005. The excess of \$150 million will partially fund the government's foreign borrowing requirements for 2006 set at P221.4 billion.

The government raised \$2.25 billion from similar bond floats in January and May. Its foreign borrowings for this year reached \$4 billion—\$3.1 billion from commercial sources through bond floats and \$900 million in the form of official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

RP/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 56.095 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 8, 2005

Y 110.34 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 8, 2005

GOLD: \$444.80-445.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 8, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Market up 0.45%



SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.45 percent higher on a technical bounce supported by further gains on Wall Street overnight as oil prices continued to ease off record highs, dealers said.

However, the rally was muted due to continuing political uncertainty over the clamor that President Macapagal-Arroyo resign for alleged election fraud.

The Philippine Stocks Exchange composite index rose 8.51 points to 1,905.84 after trading between 1,909.25 and 1,895.79 points. Volume turnover was thin at 596.9 million shares worth P558.9 million. The all-shares index advanced 5.02 points to 1,163.94.

Gainers outnumbered losers 35 to 30, while 54 stocks ended unchanged.

The peso was at 56.089 to the dollar mid-day.

"The market has been due for a rebound and Wall Street's rise provided the trigger but volume suggests investors are pausing due to politics," said James Lago of Westlink

MARKET/B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Phinma Group: Its core business is helping people

/B2



Pacific after-effects

/B3

Gov't to bid out Transco deal in Q1 of 2006

/B5

VAT on overseas calls dropped

/B8

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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ADB cuts growth forecast for RP

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY is expected to grow at a slower pace this year as it reels from the effects of weak global demand for electronics exports, a sluggish agricultural sector, and "tepid investment."

The Asian Development Bank said this as it cut its growth forecast for the Philippines (in terms of gross domestic

GDP seen to grow by only 4.7% in '05, 4.8% in '06

product) to 4.7 percent from its earlier projection of 5 percent.

"The drought early this year reduced agricultural output," the ADB said in its update to its flagship publication, the Asian Development Outlook, released yesterday. "Electronic exports, which account for more than half of the country's merchandise exports, rose by only 0.3 percent in the first six months.

Moreover, capital formation or investment contracted by 5.5 percent during the first half."

For next year, the ADB also cut its growth forecast for the country to 4.8 percent from the original 5 percent.

"Investment is likely to remain weak through 2006, and the constrained budget position effectively rules out any major fiscal stimulus," the ADB said

in a statement.

As the Manila-based multilateral funding agency downgraded its GDP forecast for the country, it upgraded its economic growth projection for Asia. The region, excluding Japan, is now expected to grow by 6.6 percent by yearend, marginally faster than the 6.5-percent the ADB earlier predicted.

ADB's revised forecast for this year is over half a percentage point lower than the government's growth projection. The National Economic and Development Authority insists that the local economy will still grow by at least 5.3 percent this year. To achieve this, Eco-

ADB/B4

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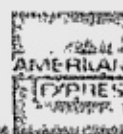
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THE PHINMA GROUP

Its core business is helping people

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN MANY PHILIPPINE COMPANIES, that little extra effort to help raise the standard of living of Filipinos mired in poverty is undertaken by a separate office or department.

Helping others is usually done in hindsight, and social responsibility programs are not an integral part of a company's growth strategy.

This is not the case with the Phinma group, which is celebrating its 50th year of doing business in the Philippines next year.

It can be profitable

The Phinma group, which made its fortune from paper and cement manufacturing, is one of the growing number of companies that strive to be the exemption to the rule.

As Phinma president Ramon del Rosario Jr. said, social responsibility is its business, and it can be profitable.

"We have redefined ourselves and our new mission is to do what we can to help Filipinos attain the basics to have a dignified life," Del Rosario told the *Inquirer*.

Two of these basics are education and affordable housing. And it is in these areas where Phinma is applying its considerable business expertise to make a difference.

"Our principal thrust is to help society, and to do so not as [part of] a corporate social responsibility program, but as a business," Del Rosario said.

To pursue its goals in education, Phinma has acquired Araullo University in Cabanatuan and Cagayan de Oro College, and is slowly turning them into higher quality academic institutions that will produce graduates with the right skills to help them land decent jobs.

Paring costs

By raising standards, Phinma expects to earn from the increase in enrollment while providing the students from these provinces a better education that they can bank on when they graduate.

Costs were also pared by centralizing some functions, such as

accounting and registration. Course development is now done through information technology to make school operations more efficient.

Del Rosario said Phinma is targeting students from the broad market that can afford to invest between P8,000 and P12,000 for a semester in college.

"If they find jobs at the end of their studies, then we can say we have helped them and we did our job to make a difference," Del Rosario said.

Cosmetic changes

In improving the students' chances of landing jobs, courses have been designed to meet the needs of the market, such as English proficiency skills and computer literacy. These are given along with basic courses, such as accounting or criminology.

Nursing students, meanwhile, are offered medical transcription classes to give them the option of working for medical transcription companies while waiting for a job at a hospital here or abroad.

Cosmetic changes were also done as Phinma believes that improvements must also be actually seen and touched, not just felt.

"The schools used to be sad looking and beat up," Del Rosario

said. "We have changed that. We want the community to regain pride in the schools so that children will come back."

He said it may be too soon to say with certainty that significant profit will come in from investing in education, but the signs are certainly encouraging.

Enrollment has gone up in both schools and the community has responded well to Phinma's entry.

Araullo produced nine bar passers, the highest ever for the school, and 70 percent of the nursing graduates passed the board exams.

He said Phinma was looking to acquire two to three more schools in the provinces with a good heritage and a reputation for turning out quality students to take its mission one step closer to being fulfilled.

Phinma is applying the same formula in affordable housing in Metro Manila where it is needed the most.

First, it went into joint venture deals with landowners to bring down the cost of land. Second, it tapped a construction system that allows Phinma to deliver five-floor condominium structures in just 60 days.

Affordable housing

Del Rosario said the fast turnaround time combined with the

cheap cost of land allows Phinma to sell good quality and sturdy affordable houses at between P500,000 and P750,000 for a 30 square-meter home in Quezon City. This translates to a monthly amortization of about P5,500 a month.

"We want to prove that meeting the needs of society can be a viable business," Del Rosario said.

Phinma has always been a champion of corporate social responsibility.

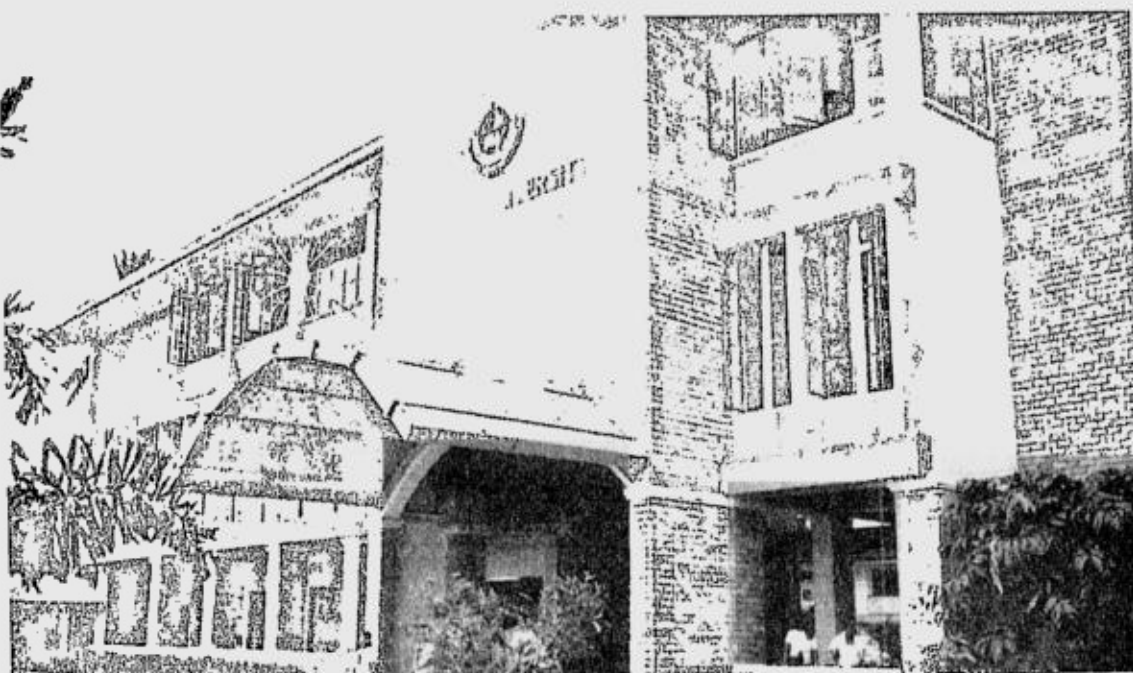
One of its biggest projects is the sponsorship of the Asian CSR Awards of the Asian Forum on Corporate Responsibility, the third edition of which will be held today in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Del Rosario said the awards seek to propagate practices of corporate social responsibility that companies from all countries can learn from.

Nongovernment organizations from the Philippines have been getting their share of awards because the philosophy of corporate social responsibility has long taken root in the country.

Championing these NGOs before the rest of Asia helps keep Phinma going, and encourages it to pursue its program of combining profit with social responsibility.

"We are excited about our new mission," Del Rosario said. "We are actually more excited than we have been for a long time."



PHINMA TRANSFORMATION: From building materials to education

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Enrollment has gone up in both schools and the community has responded well to Phinma's entry.

Araullo produced nine bar passers, the highest ever for the school, and 70 percent of the nursing graduates passed the board exams.

He said Phinma was looking to acquire two to three more schools in the provinces with a good heritage and a reputation for turning out quality students to take its mission one step closer to being fulfilled.

Phinma is applying the same formula in affordable housing in Metro Manila where it is needed the most.

First, it went into joint venture deals with landowners to bring down the cost of land. Second, it tapped a construction system that allows Phinma to deliver five-floor condominium structures in just 60 days.

Affordable housing

Del Rosario said the fast turnaround time combined with the

cheap cost of land allows Phinma to sell good quality and sturdy affordable houses at between P500,000 and P750,000 for a 30 square-meter home in Quezon City. This translates to a monthly amortization of about P5,500 a month.

"We want to prove that meeting the needs of society can be a viable business," Del Rosario said.

Phinma has always been a champion of corporate social responsibility.

One of its biggest projects is the sponsorship of the Asian CSR Awards of the Asian Forum on Corporate Responsibility, the third edition of which will be held today in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Del Rosario said the awards seek to propagate practices of corporate social responsibility that companies from all countries can learn from.

Nongovernment organizations from the Philippines have been getting their share of awards because the philosophy of corporate social responsibility has long taken root in the country.

Championing these NGOs before the rest of Asia helps keep Phinma going, and encourages it to pursue its program of combining profit with social responsibility.

"We are excited about our new mission," Del Rosario said. "We are actually more excited than we have been for a long time."

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

SONIC STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC. IS ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING ALUMINUM-ZINC COATED IRON/STEEL SHEETS UNDER THE TRADE NAME SUPERLUME, THE NAME LARGELY OWING TO ITS SUPERIOR QUALITY.

IN THE PAST, THE ALUMINUM-ZINC COATED IRON SHEETS INDUSTRY WAS DOMINATED BY A COMPANY CALLED STEELCORP. RECENTLY HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY ENTRY OF NEW INDUSTRY PLAYERS DESIRING TO GIVE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE BETTER, SUPERIOR QUALITY CHOICES OF STEEL PRODUCTS AT LOWER PRICES.

SONIC STEEL IS ONE SUCH NEW INDUSTRY PLAYER WHO SUCCESSFULLY OVERTOOK THE MARKET DOMINANCE OF STEELCORP. BECAUSE OF SONIC STEEL'S SUCCESS, IT BECAME THE VICTIM OF PREDATORY, INAPPROPRIATE, MALICIOUS AND UNDERHANDED PRACTICES AND MANIPULATIONS OF THE LAW AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SO THAT CERTAIN MONOPOLIES CAN BE MAINTAINED. EVEN MORE UNJUSTLY, THE VERY SAME BASELESS AND GROUNDLESS LAWSUITS FILED AGAINST SONIC STEEL AND ITS OFFICERS WERE USED BY ITS MONOPOLISTIC COMPETITOR TO DEFAME SONIC STEEL BEFORE THE PUBLIC AND THE MASS MEDIA.

RECENTLY, SONIC STEEL AGAIN WAS AT THE RECEIVING END OF THESE BASELESS AND MALICIOUS LAWSUITS. STEELCORP FILED A CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST SONIC STEEL AIMED AT STOPPING SONIC STEEL FROM SELLING QUALITY AND LESS EXPENSIVE STEEL PRODUCTS. THE CRIMINAL LAWSUIT MAY MISLEAD THE PUBLIC AND THE COURTS BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING MISREPRESENTATIONS: (1) STEELCORP MISREPRESENTS THAT IT HAS THE SOLE RIGHT TO USE EXPIRED U.S. PATENTS; (2) STEELCORP MISREPRESENTS THAT A PATENT OVER A MERE BARBED WIRE ABSURDLY GIVES IT EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MANUFACTURE ALUMINUM-ZINC COATED IRON/STEEL SHEETS; (3) STEELCORP MISREPRESENTS THAT THE BUYING PUBLIC MISTAKES SUPERLUME FOR GALVALUME, AND; (4) STEELCORP HIDES FROM THE COURT THAT THERE ARE FOUR SIMILAR CASES ALREADY PENDING BETWEEN SONIC AND STEELCORP TOUCHING ON THE SAME ISSUES.

IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS UNDERHANDED DESIGNS AND INAPPROPRIATE SCHEMES TO STOP ITS MARKET SHARE FROM FURTHER DWINDLING, STEELCORP HAS BEEN CALLING UP AND HARASSING CONSUMERS AND TELLING THEM THE SAME MISREPRESENTATIONS IT HAD USED IN MISLEADING THE COURTS.

SONIC STEEL WANTS THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THAT IT WILL MEET HEAD ON AND FIGHT THE CRIMINAL HARASSMENTS DONE BY STEELCORP AGAINST SONIC STEEL AND ITS CUSTOMERS. SONIC STEEL WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE MACHINATIONS OF STEELCORP. SONIC STEEL WILL NOT BE STOPPED FROM GIVING THE PUBLIC THE CHOICE OF BUYING LEGITIMATELY PRODUCED QUALITY AND MORE REASONABLY PRICED PRODUCTS.

DESPITE THE HARASSMENT BY STEELCORP, SONIC STEEL MAINTAINS NORMAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND MORE THAN ADEQUATELY MEETS THE DEMANDS OF ITS CUSTOMERS AS WELL AS ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THIRD PARTIES.

SONIC STEEL WISHES TO IMPRESS UPON STEELCORP, MR. ABETO UY, CHAIRMAN OF STEELCORP, ITS AGENTS, AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS WHO ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BECOME STEELCORP'S INSTRUMENTS THAT ALL CRIMINAL ACTS COMMITTED TO SABOTAGE SONIC STEEL'S OPERATIONS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.

SONIC STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.

Public Notice/S

RP sells \$1B worth of 10-yr bonds

From page B1

Some P348.7 billion in domestic borrowings, through regular auctions of Treasury bills and bonds, were also set for this year.

The government was forced to borrow substantially from both foreign and domestic sources to fund its budget gap.

The budget deficit stood at P187 billion last year. It was expected to drop to P180 billion this year through administrative measures, such as a crackdown on tax cheats, and the implementation of the VAT Reform Law (RVAT).

The RVAT, considered the Arroyo administration's key measure to address the country's fiscal problem, has been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court after it earlier issued a temporary restraining order on its implementation.

The TRO followed petitions by opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers. But with the high court upholding the law's constitutionality, finance officials are expecting the lifting of the TRO before the end of the month.

ADVT



ONLY
7
days left
before
CRACKDOWN
begins.

Starting September 16,
the **Pilipinas**
Anti-Piracy Team
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against companies that
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National Bureau of
Investigation



Optical Media
Board



Philippine
National Police



COALITION

Pacific after-effects

HAVING WEATHERED THE tsunami of bad publicity from the Pacific Plans fiasco, taipan Alfonso Yuchengco's Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. has boosted its advertising and marketing campaign—in case you have not noticed the double-spread ads in the major dailies—to win back depositor confidence.

According to its second-quarter report, RCBC's savings deposits went down to P48.5 billion (unaudited) from P51.47 billion (audited) as of end-2004, while demand deposits contracted to P7.7 billion from P8.35 billion in the same period.

On the upside, time deposits rose to P79.16 billion, from P77.43 billion of yearend.

The trust deposit accounts suffered the greatest contraction, dropping to nearly P49.27 billion by midyear, from P57.24 billion of end-2004.

Bottom line: RCBC still managed to post more than P327 million in net income for the first six months of 2005, as against the nearly P1.2 billion it earned during the first half of 2004.

To reduce its non-performing loan ratio (15.84 percent by end-June, as against 12.38 percent by end-December), RCBC sold last month, after the end of the reporting period, P3.5 billion worth of NPL accounts to two special purpose vehicles.

Looking beyond the bank, the consolidated assets of the RCBC Group went up to P201.35 billion, from P183.26 billion of yearend, largely due to a P21-billion increase in trading and investment securities and another P7-billion increase in what is termed as "due from other banks."

Paeng defies medical advice

RETIRED and still recuperating Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura defied doctors' advice to avoid crowds and human contact by attending not only a cocktail party the other day—to launch another fabulous coffee-table book featuring the bank's fabulous art collection—but also a farewell assembly of central bank employees earlier in the afternoon.

The thinner, mop-topped central banker gave an upbeat speech and managed to sail through both events by sitting most of the time in a sofa, along with wife, painter and now full-time nurse, Marivic Rufino.

Guests lined up to exchange pleasantries with Buenaventura and Marivic and have their art books autographed.

The air-conditioning in the humongous central bank building is normally set at chiller, international standards, but with the recent raid of the temperature police, a number of sweating guests had to remove their coats.

Going back to Paeng, it was apparently not the first time that the banker had gone against doctors' order. According to Manila Golf habitués, Buenaventura has ventured to the golf course a number of times and exposed himself to the elements and even to Golden Tee cheaters.

Whoops, that's another story.

Silver dinner for Urban Bankers

THEIR tops may be thinning and their paunches flabbier, but key executives of the shuttered Urban Bank are celebrating today what could have been the commercial bank's 25th anniversary had it not found itself on the wrong side of the political equation during the Estrada years.

Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome III is hosting a dinner tonight in his Fort condo for what used to be the Urban Bank management committee, who include "Wik" Veloso (now HSBC chief financial officer), Dennis Decena (Roxaco Land president), Nida Santos (Pascual Laboratories operations chief) and Export and Industry Bank head executives Josue Camba (insurance subsidiary), Mario Padilla (treasurer), Art Manuel (support services), Ricardo Dizon (corporate banking), Andy Ibarra (private banking) and Cora Bejasa, corporate secretary.

An empty seat has been reserved for departed president Teodoro Borlongan.

Money-go-round

• FORMER Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya, now head of the Philtrust Bank of Emilio Yap, said he too was, and still is, in the dark about the source of the \$200 million that the Manila Hotel owner raised to pay for the Fraport share in the controversial Terminal III project.

• Former Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez, citing heavy travel commitments, has resigned from the board of the Yuchengcos' House of Investments. He was replaced by former SSS chief Renato Valencia.

Heard through the grapevine

SOCIALITE Melissa Mercado-Martel has accepted a P30-million cash settlement from Harrison Plaza heir Robert Puyat Martel in return for dropping all the criminal and civil charges against her estranged husband.

In addition, the socialite gets to keep about half a million dollars worth of heirloom jewelry that the mother of the mall heir had "lent" her on her wedding day.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pltdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Market up . . .

From page B1

Global Equities Inc.

"Without all of these political dramas, the Philippine equities market could be trading much higher," Lago added.

Arroyo's allies in Congress earlier this week quashed the impeachment complaints filed against her by the opposition, alleging that she cheated to win the May, 2004 elections. However the opposition has now resorted to street protests to try to force Arroyo out.

AFP

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin



PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 08, 2005	Last Week August 30, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.27160	1.27089
Managed Fund - Peso	1.36484	1.37271
Growth Fund - Peso	0.99818	1.02381
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1354	1.1325

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	September 5, 2005	August 29, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.049383	1.048366
Balanced Fund	1.031500	1.033123
Equity Fund	0.990442	0.998173

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission. The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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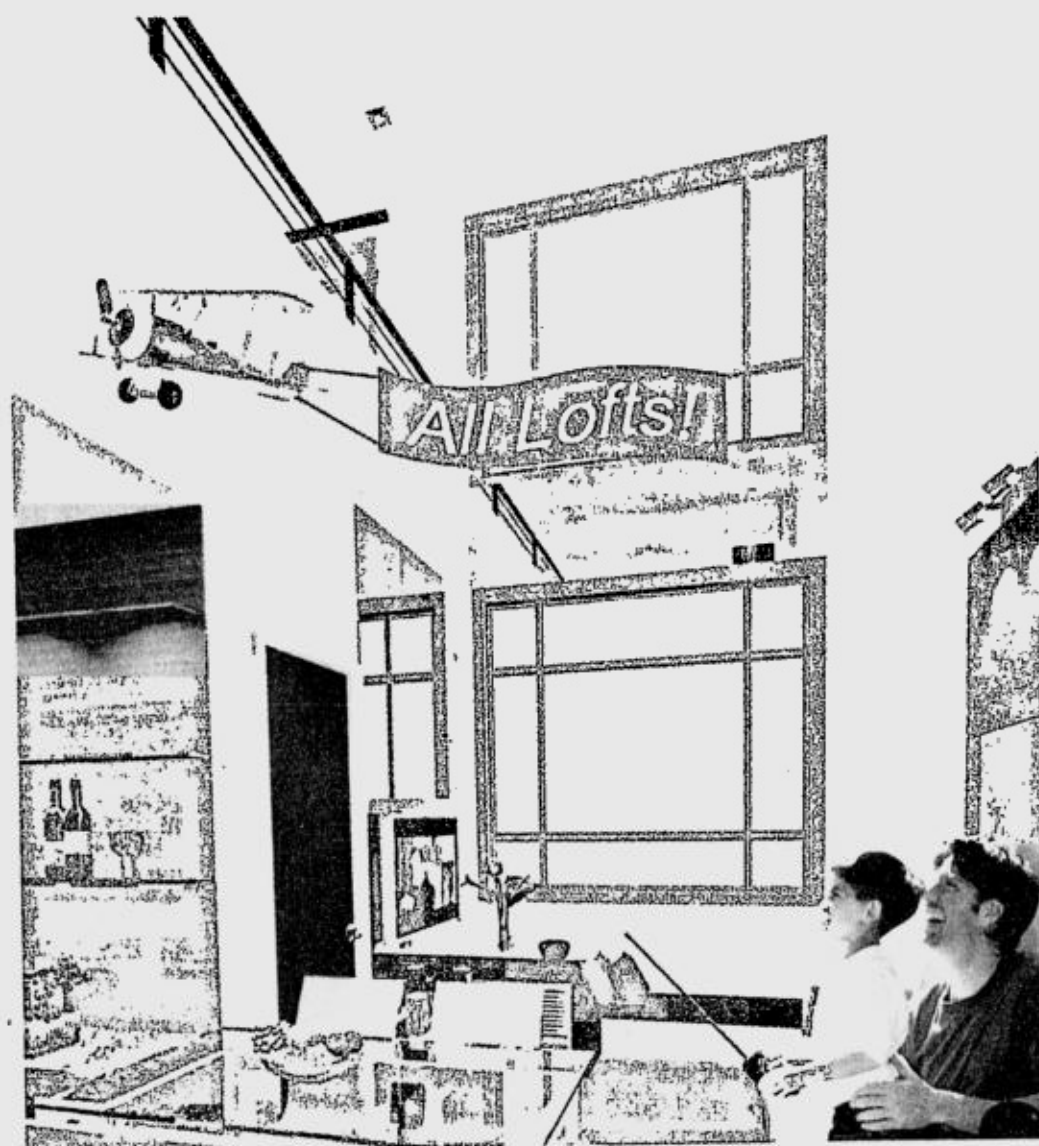
*For minimum loan amount of P1Million

Promo period from August 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4713, Series of 2005

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SEC readies sanctions vs EPCIB

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Commission (SEC) is set to sanction Equitable PCI Bank, its subsidiary Equitable PCI Leasing, and some of its former directors and officers for alleged violations of securities laws on independent directors and disclosures.

SEC Commissioner Juanita Cueto said the Commission En Banc has given the SEC's Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED) the go-ahead to pursue administrative charges against the erring bank and its officers.

The CED said in a report obtained by the INQUIRER that the bank and its former directors violated rules on independent directors when former foreign affairs secretary Roberto Romulo and former ambassador Cesar Bautista were nominated to the bank's board.

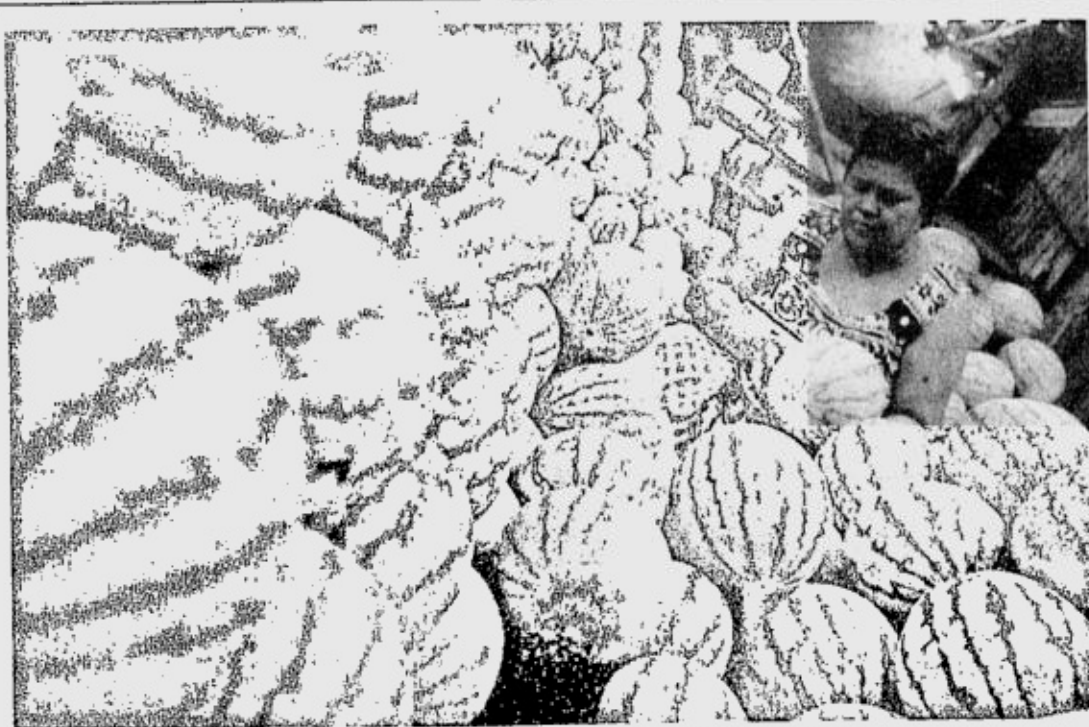
The SEC said the two were not qualified to sit as independent directors of the bank.

Romulo, however, later withdrew from the election. Bautista, on the other hand, was elected during the meeting.

CED also said the bank's information statement filed with the SEC contained "untrue statements of material fact and omitted to state material facts required."

EPCIB, on the other hand, said it was confident that there is no basis for pursuing administrative charges.

"We are confident that if SEC hears our side then they will be convinced that there is no basis for administrative or criminal charges," said Nilo Divina, head of legal and executive adviser to the board of EPCIB.



ALING Myrna Almario checks some of her watermelons from Cagayan Valley at her stall in Lakandula St., Tondo, Manila. A mother of three grown kids, she has been selling this kind of fruit for the past 30 years.

LYN RILLON

Smart may buy more ETPI shares

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. may get first crack at buying a portion of the shares in Eastern Telecommunications Philippine Inc. that Australian firm Gigahertz Network International Ltd. plans to sell to ISM Communications Corp. controlled by Roberto V. Ongpin.

Ongpin said, however, that Smart can only exercise its right of first refusal corresponding to its 9.8-percent ETPI stake if ISM

pays for the Agni stake in cash, or it buys the stake of ETPI's owner—Australian Gigahertz Network Phils.—and not the parent firm.

"If we buy the 40 percent block of the Australians for cash, Smart will have a proportionate right of first refusal, which is 9.8 percent of 40 percent," said Ongpin.

Ongpin issued the statement in reaction to Smart's questioning of the sale of Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc.'s 17.7-percent stake in ETPI to ISM.

Smart said the sale was questionable as the Nieto and Lobregat families did not first offer the shares to existing shareholders of ETPI, such as Smart.

ISM, on the other hand, maintains that Smart has no right of first refusal on the 17.7-percent stake of Aerocom since ISM did not pay for the shares in cash and that the transaction was done through a share swap.

Aerocom now owns 6.8 percent of ISM.

ADB ...

From page B1

conomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos is counting on the strong performance of the agriculture sector and higher consumer demand in the second semester.

The ADB also hinted at the possibility of further economic growth adjustments given the country's vulnerability to rising oil prices, delays in the implementation of the value-added tax law, and the prevailing political crisis.

The US dollars sent home by an estimated five million expatriate Filipino workers remains the brightest hope for the economy, pending the recovery in the global demand for electronics, it said.

"Remittances from overseas Filipino workers will continue to aid consumption, and an expected upturn in the global electronics cycle will help industrial production and exports next year," ADB said.

In 2007, growth is expected to pick up to 5 percent, provided that the global economy expands as projected and weather conditions in the Philippines will allow a sustained recovery in agricultural output.

The ADB advised the Arroyo administration to focus more on improving the fiscal situation, especially after the tax and customs bureaus reported weaker collection performance in the first seven months of 2005.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 8, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	3.9	4	3.9	4	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	31	31	174,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	52	50.5	52	409,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	1,330,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	49.5	50.5	49.5	50.5	143,600
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26.5	609,400
Philippine National Bank	36.5	36.5	36	36.5	58,200
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	1,700
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	30,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	255	240	255	1,030
Manulife Financial Corp.	2820	2835	2820	2835	570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	22,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2035	2030	2035	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	260,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	725	720	725	21,720
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	5,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	3,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	25,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	489,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1590	1595	1580	1585	29,330
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.25	22	22	765,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	3,562,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	2,342,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	419,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	158,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8.1	1,531,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	30,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	19,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	150,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	31,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.45	3.4	3.45	134,000
Binabara San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	35	34	35	785,700
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	141,200
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	93.5	92.5	92.5	90,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Ayala Corp.	290	292.5	290	290	179,260
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	510,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.95	10,027,000
Ajo. Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	5,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	4,895,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	1,280,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.14	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,810,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,070,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	8,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,710,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,000,000
Ever-Goteco Resources	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Flt-Estate Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	14,000
Flt-Invest Dev. Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	167,000
Flt-Hispano Holdings Corp.	40	40	40	40	593,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	245,000
Macarasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.32	5,453,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3	3	3	3	636,000
Nexstage Inc.	206	207	206	206	74,180
SM Investments Corp.	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.45	130,000
Tanday Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	200,000
Univ. Res. & Holdings Co	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	2,890,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	450,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	2,280,000
Belle Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.82	15,155,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	6,500
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7,220,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	56,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	60,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	900,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,480,000
Fillmore Land Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	5,679,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.21	1,000,000
Flt-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	610,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	17,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	6,470,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	367,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.08	513,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	68,000,000
Altas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	508,000
Benquet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	7,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,920,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	13,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	47,200,000
Orico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	96,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	330,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	155,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	457,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.32	1,510,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	12,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	85,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	154,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	750,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
Sinophit Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2,030,000
Vulcan Ind't	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	170,000

CURRENCIES

September 8, 2005	Euro	Dollar	Peso
Country	Unit	Equivalent	Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.000000	56.1560
Japan	Yen	0.007315	0.5103
Pound	Pound	1.478908	103.1642
United Kingdom	Dollar	0.103645	7.2300
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.647958	0.804894
Switzerland	Franc	0.677971	47.2932
Canada	Dollar	0.480095	33.4900
Singapore	Dollar	0.618012	43.1107
Bahrain	Dinar	2.135454	148.9628
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.214661	14.9741
Brunei	Dollar	0.478668	33.3904
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019635	1.3696
UAE	Dirham	0.219197	15.2905
Euro	Euro	1.000000	69.7570
Argentina	Peso	0.277116	19.3308
Brazil	Real	0.345726	24.1168
Denmark	Kroner	0.134172	9.3595
India	Rupiah	0.018384	1.2824
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213648	14.9034
Mexico	New Peso	0.075032	5.2340
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567318	39.5744
Norway	Kroner	0.128190	8.9422
Pakistan	Rupiah	0.013473	0.9398
South Africa	Rand	0.127226	8.8749
Korea	Won	0.000784	0.0547
Sweden	Kroner	0.107338	7.4876
Syria	Pound	0.015508	1.0818
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024695	1.7226
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000375	0.0262

Gov't to bid out Transco deal in Q1 of 2006

Napocor assets to be sold, too

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BIDDING FOR NATIONAL TRANSMISSION Corp. (Transco) will definitely take place within the first quarter of next year, as the government tries to implement various measures that will help mitigate the impact of the delay in the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government would have to focus on the privatization of some state firms and their assets to help compensate for the forgone revenues arising from the delay in the VAT law implementation.

One possible revenue source, he said, would be the sale of the Transco concession agreement.

After undergoing revaluation by a third party appraiser, the value of the Transco assets was set at \$2.68 billion, up from only \$1.8 billion when the state firm had its first asset valuation.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz earlier said that with the increase in the valuation, the 25-year Transco concession would likely fetch a price higher than when the state firm set the estimated value of the firm's assets at \$2 billion.

The new valuation, he said, would also serve as the basis for the 25-percent down payment that the prospective concessionaire would be required to make.

Apart from Transco, Teves said the government would also be focusing its attention on

the privatization of the assets of National Power Corp. which remained the biggest drag on the government's bottom line.

Napocor has so far privatized six generation assets—including the 3.5-megawatt (MW) Talomo plant in Davao which was sold to the Aboitiz group's Hydroelectric Development Corp.; the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon,

to the Lopez group's First Generation Holdings Inc.; the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, to lawyer Ramon Constanio; the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, to Sorsogon II Elec-

tric Cooperative Inc.; the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol, to Sta. Clara International, and the 600-MW Masinloc plant in Zambales, to the YNN Pacific Group.

Teves said the government should work on privatizing Napocor's assets at the soonest possible time not only to raise revenues but also to ease the strain on the state coffers.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # A3-72 Series of 2005.

MIAA 7-month income up 34%

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Authority posted a net income of P472 million in the first seven months, up 34 percent from year-ago level and 58 percent more than the target of P299 million for the period.

MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi attributed this to increased passengers and flights, particularly from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Effective management also made a lot of difference in sustaining profitability," said Cusi.

Cusi said the agency implemented a P100 increase in domestic terminal fees to P200 per passenger starting September. He said the increase was the first in seven years.

The move should improve MIAA revenue by about P300 million a year, said Cusi.

"We tried to delay the increase in domestic passenger fees for as long as we could but the continuing increase in maintenance and security programs, as well as our desire to implement overdue infrastructure projects for better service, made the fee increase inevitable," he added.

From January to July, revenue stood at P2.6 billion, up by only one percent from P2.34 billion last year. The target for the period was P2.9 billion.

The MIAA said its overseas terminal fee collection went up by P66 million and the domestic terminal charge by P10 million during the period even without the hike in fee. This was due to the increase in passengers.

Aeronautical fees, however, dropped by P60 million after three foreign airlines ceased operations at the Naia. Egypt Air, Swiss Air and Air France stopped landing in Naia last year.

The MIAA, pointed out, however, that the growth in the actual number of international and domestic flights exceeded forecast by 1,614 and 17,152 flights. The increase helped offset the drop in aeronautical fees.

GOINGS-ON

'Investourism' forum

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND Industry, in cooperation with Philippine Tour Operators Association, holds today the 3rd Investourism Forum and Business Matching at the Megatrade B of SM Megamall. The program starts at 1 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

The forum aims to raise the level of awareness of the business community on investing in tourism and to promote various investment opportunities in the country. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and discuss tourism investment opportunities with prospective investors and developers of tourism-related industries.

Philippine Tours Operators Association president Leo Picaso, PCCI president Donald Dee and PCCI VP for tourism Samie Lim will share their thoughts on investment opportunities.

NTC cites Globe 3G trial

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has expressed confidence over the planned rollout of 3G technology in the Philippines, just weeks after Globe Telecom announced its first series of successfully completed video calls on a trial 3G network.

Globe is so far the only operator to receive 3G trial frequencies and permit from the NTC.

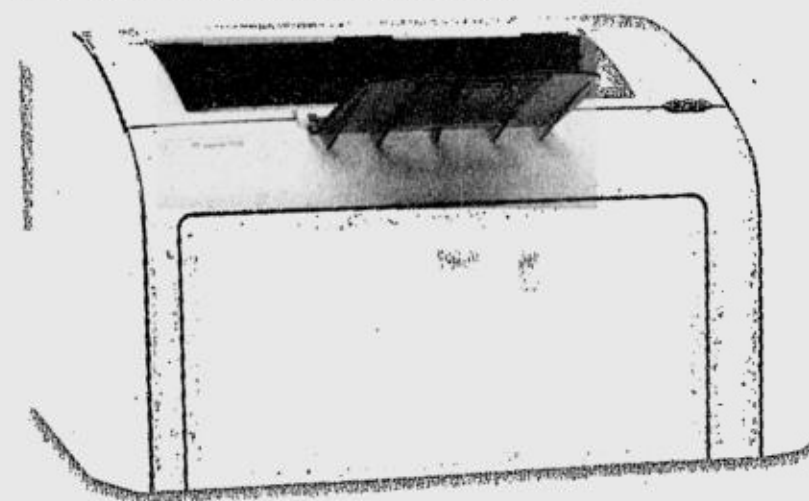
Available in selected areas in Asia and Europe, the full motion, real time video streaming capabilities of 3G technology will enable mobile subscribers to make video calls both here and abroad, as well as provide enhanced quality of Internet surfing and live video and music streaming.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2248 Series of 2005

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

CSB ATMs now in SM malls

IN LINE WITH CITYSTATE SAVINGS Bank's expansion program, the bank initiated an ATM roll-out program to increase their ATM network this year.

As early as July this year, Citystate ATM machines are fully operational in SM malls particularly in Megamall, SM City North Edsa and SM Centerpoint. There is an ongoing negotiation with SM Mall of Asia for additional ATM sites that are set to open late this year.

Citystate cardholders and other depositors will have ready access to their accounts during the mall hours or even after the closing of business hours. They may use their ATM cards in paying their utility bills, credit card balances, insurance premiums, and telecommunication bills. With its full range of automated services, it also accepts transactions of Megalink cardholders, which makes it even more accessible to the banking public day or night.

Jeffrey T. Tantiado, IT vice president said, "The ongoing

plans of the bank is not limited to branch expansion but also availability of our service to customers, such as putting up ATM machines in places where our clients need us."

Citystate Savings Bank was awarded by BancNet with the most efficient ATM among BancNet member banks for two consecutive years. The bank's ATMs assure depositors of a fast and reliable transaction anywhere and anytime.

Citystate Savings Bank is publicly listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and was recently acclaimed 2004 most outstanding savings bank by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards committee, top savings bank by the National Consumers Affairs Foundation from 2003 to 2005 Outstanding Savings Bank by the Consumers Union of the Philippines. The bank is operated by a consortium that includes the Fortune Insurance Group and the Citystate Management Group Holdings Pte Ltd of Singapore.



TOPPING-OFF CEREMONY

St. Francis Square recently held its topping-off ceremony. A fully airconditioned, multi-level 'tiangge' shopping mall in Ortigas Center, St. Francis Square caters to bargain hunters, wholesale and retail buyers. Present during the topping-off were special guest and partners (from left) Bishop

Fred Magbanua, architect Eduardo Madulid, lawyer Julio Elamparo, Marciano Facun, former Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon of Samar, lawyer Deogracias Eufemio, St. Francis Square president and CEO Luke C. Roxas and engineer Johnny Tan.

Driving with 24 Heroes, driving with peace of mind

IMAGINE THIS: YOU ARE DRIVING HOME late one evening when your car suddenly develops serious problems that leave you stranded by the side of the road. Who would you call for help? Your spouse? Good ol' dad? The tambays down the corner? Now imagine your loved ones in this alarming situation.

Scary thought, isn't it? Not if you've got 24 Heroes (24-Hour Emergency Roadside Service) to call on when the unexpected strikes on the road. Like superheroes, 24 Heroes will come to your rescue 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure you and your vehicle reach a service center or your home safely. The 24 Heroes crew could also perform minor repairs on-site such as changing flat tires or boosting dead batteries. 24 Heroes could even fetch your duplicate keys for you when you lock yourself out of your vehicle.

Enrolling in 24 Heroes is so convenient with three enrollment centers in Metro Manila: Caltex StarMart Connecticut on the corner of Connecticut Road (Gate 5) and Edsa in Greenhills; Caltex StarMart Malugay along Buendia near the corner of Pasong Tamo in Makati City; and Simex Trading (Meguiar's) along Kamias Road, Quezon City. It's affordable, too. Annual membership fee costs only

P695—that's less than P2 per day for worry-free driving throughout the year! Memberships are activated two working days after enrollment.

The best thing about 24 Heroes is they are in many of the places you drive to. 24 Heroes has got you covered in Metro Manila, Baguio City, Benguet, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan, Olongapo City, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, and General Santos City.

Besides boasting one of the widest coverages in the industry, 24 Heroes also has one of the biggest fleets of tow trucks in the country. 24 Heroes has over 120 tow trucks on standby in strategic points in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to ensure speedy response to members' distress calls.

Not all tow trucks are created equal. Conventional tow trucks, which lift only two wheels of a vehicle off the ground, could put too much stress on the suspension and drivetrain of the vehicles they tow. Furthermore, a vehicle being towed ideally shouldn't have any components moving—not even its wheels. Four-wheel drive vehicles and vehicles with automatic transmissions are especially vul-

nerable to damage when towed by ordinary tow trucks.

"The best type of tow truck is the flatbed or car carrier on which a vehicle being towed could piggyback with all its tires safely planted on the tow truck's cargo bed. Several 24 Heroes flat bed tow trucks are even large enough for full-size sport utility vehicles such as the Ford Expedition to piggyback on," explains Eric S. Soriano, executive vice president of Drive Online Inc., the company behind 24 Heroes. "In Metro Manila alone, 24 Heroes has 40 flat bed tow trucks."

"DOI is in the business of developing automotive solutions that eliminate the hassles that come with motoring. We also offer various fleet management solutions for companies of all sizes but 24 Heroes remains our flagship service," added Soriano.

24 Heroes is powered by Ibero Asistencia, the country's leader in roadside assistance. Ibero Asistencia is a subsidiary of Sistema Internacional de Asistencia Mapfre (SIAM), one of Europe's largest insurance and assistance conglomerates. The state of the art 24 Heroes call center in Makati City conforms to international call center standards and is managed and operated by Ibero Asistencia.

SUZUKI PRESIDENT OPENS SWIFT, VITARA LAUNCH

Kiyoshi Kawahara, president, Suzuki Philippines, welcomes guests, business partners and media delegates in the recently concluded Swift and Grand Vitara launch, amid a European-inspired theme. In his speech, Kawahara underlines why Swift and Grand Vitara are a notch above the rest. The new Suzuki Swift is a marriage of Japan technology with a European personality that is luxurious, has a racer-like kind of sportiness, has real engine power, nimble cornering ability and speed. The new Grand Vitara still carries Suzuki's grand tradition of masculine off-roading prowess and 4x4 expertise that's even grander in luxury and utmost comfort. Launched at the AFP



Theatre in Camp Aguinaldo, Suzuki's Swift and Grand Vitara's latest edition were creatively presented via theatrical performances and chorale repertoire.

PAWS holds Spay Day

THE PHILIPPINE ANIMAL WELFARE Society is holding "Spay Day" on Sep. 10, Saturday, at the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center in Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. Spaying your dogs

and cats will help curb pet overpopulation. It is also good for the health of your pets. To have your pets spayed, you have to pre-register by calling 475-1688.

Fire extinguisher company awarded for quality

EVERSAFE INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES was recently awarded by the 1st Philippine Builders Excellence Awards as the No. 1 Fire Extinguisher company in the country. It won in its Security, Fire Equipment and Services division held at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. This award is a testament to the commitment of the company to the Filipino people.

Helios fire extinguisher, exclusive distributed by Eversafe International Enterprises, is a world-class product designed to answer the needs of the Philippine market for an international standard fire extinguisher product yet affordable enough to be owned by anyone. The company, established since January 1998, was organized to provide high quality standards of fire preventive products. In fact, Helios is manufactured by an ISO 9001:2000 certified

firm. Helios is manufactured and created with the highest quality standards, including elements that take into account the protection of the ozone layer, making it popular in the international market and now gaining acceptance in the Philippines. Among the standards of approvals it has are: Australian Standards (AS); Malaysian Standard (MS); British Standards (BS); Singapore Standard (PSB); European Standard (EN); Shell Petroleum; Lloyds of London; Philippine Coast Guard.

For further inquiries, log on to <http://www.eversafe.com.ph> or call the Manila branch at 373-3630 to 32 or 371-2606; the Cebu branch at (032) 253-9294 or (032) 262-8216; and the Davao branch at (082) 244-0524 or (082) 244-0482. You could also e-mail sales@eversafe.com.ph.

Having everything isn't having all

MANY LIVE ON THE PRINCIPLE that happiness is having everything. Little do they realize that "having everything is not having all." One can have everything he wants but still feel discontent. You can never have it all. It is a natural human tendency to want something at any given time. When you have satisfied your wants for today, you will surely want something else tomorrow. It simply never ends. So why try to have everything when it is simply impossible?

Going back to the roots of authentic Filipino heritage reveals how our ancestors lived on a daily basis. Some might believe it was crude, but it is actually simple living. Buy only what you need now. The Real Bank, one of the country's leading thrift banks, encourages Filipinos to save for tomorrow.

Learning important values from Filipino native roots and bringing them back to our modern lives is a principle that the new The Real Bank stands for. With its dictum "Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino

Dreams," The Real Bank aims to revive unique and significant Filipino values in today's culture believing that these are effective tools in fulfilling many Filipino dreams.

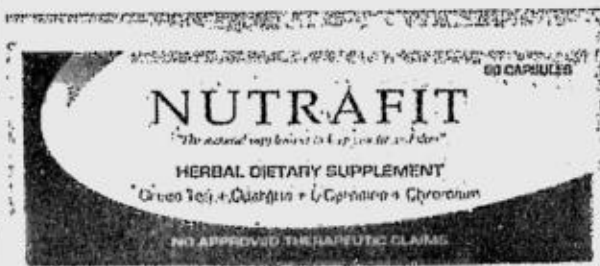
Starting with the youth, The Real Bank initiated a savings advocacy campaign among the school children as it launched its "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" in the school year 2004-2005 with the Department of Education as its advocacy partner.

Because of the positive response of children, parents and teachers on the project, The Real Bank expands its target schools from 18 to 25 this coming school year 2005-2006.

With continued support and encouragement, The Real Bank is positive that by sustaining this campaign, it is actively participating in molding children to become effective nation builders as they start to learn the value of saving at a young age and be able to appreciate the principle of "delayed gratification".

Product FILES

Perfect combination for burning fats



HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR 'OVER-sized' women. The newest tandem of fat-burner-cum-lipid-absorber has finally arrived in the Philippine market. It's called Nutrafit and Exofat Forte.

Nutrafit naturally aids in increasing your metabolism, thus burning those unwanted fats without burning you out. Exofat Forte, on the other hand, is an all-natural premium lipid absorber that is clinically

proven to bind fats and prevent it from being absorbed by the body.

Exofat Forte contains liphosan, a natural marine fiber that binds and eliminates fat by preventing its assimilation into the bloodstream; oligofructose, which enhances the formation and growth of good bacteria in the stomach and leads to a healthier gastric balance. Nutrafit, meanwhile, contains green tea that deactivates free radicals, which can

damage the DNA and cause cancer; gaurana, which provides an energy boost with numerous health benefits like relief of ailments such as stress, nervous tension and weight control, and carnitine, which facilitates the production of energy from fat.

Nutrafit and Exofat Forte are exclusively marketed and distributed in the Philippines by Biolink Pharma. Call 411-4448 or 413-5079 for more information.

Gyne-Fresh now at Rustan's, Shopwise

GYNE-FRESH, THE ONLY doctor-formulated daily feminine wash, has the only pH level consistent with the normal pH balance of the external female genitalia. Formulated by Dr. Annebelle

Aherreria, an OB-Gyne consultant at the Makati Medical Center and Medical City, Gyne-Fresh has a pH level that makes it ideal to help maintain the external female genitalia's equilibrium, which if disrupted leads to irritations and infections. Gyne-Fresh is now available at the following high-end Metro Manila supermarkets: Rustan's Makati, Rockwell, Shangri-La Edsa and Katipunan, and Shopwise Alabang, Araneta Center, Libis and Makati.



Cool cat



JAGUAR-LAND ROVER Philippines Inc is set to fire up the local automotive industry as it introduces the R version of the X-Type variant. Dubbed as one of the world's sexiest machines on wheels by BBC's auto program "Top Gear", the X-Type R is a fusion of class and performance.

Designed and built by Jaguar Racing, the X-Type R is distinguished by a wraparound body kit, a rear ducktail spoiler, mesh type grille and front skirts with powerful foglamps and 16-inch light alloy wheels. Jaguar-Land Rover Philippines offers the X-

Type R in two variants, in 2.5-liter or 3.0-liter 24-valve V6. Maximum engine output is pegged at 240 bhp@6,800 RPM. It is available in different colors, including the famed Jaguar Racing Green. Jaguar Philippines also offers the X-Type R body kit for X-Type owners who want to upgrade into a more sporty look.

For inquiries on how to leave the competition behind, visit the Jaguar showrooms at the Enzo Building, 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or along ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or call 897-8888.

More PEP on pages
B2-4 and B2-6



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for more or less 8,475 MT or 169,500 bags Imported Iron Fortified Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From Poro Port to Staging Warehouses within La Union:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Distance (km)	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
1	San Juan GID	10.60	60,000	16	6,400	420,000.00
2	Obar Warehouse	36.80	6,000	2	800	45,000.00
3	Caragay Whse.	22.60	33,500	9	2,400	251,250.00
4	Aragay Whse.	24.10	35,000	9	2,400	262,500.00
5	Agoo Whse.	25.10	35,000	9	2,400	262,500.00

B. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses within Region I:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Distance (km)	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
6	Bangued GID, Abra	138.0	3,000	2	800	45,960.00
7	Baguio City, Benguet	75.5	15,500	6	1,800	255,750.00
8	Laoag GID, Ilocos Norte	214.0	9,000	3	2,000	194,490.00
9	Dingras GID, Ilocos Norte	242.0	2,000	2	800	48,880.00
10	Tan Whse., Ilocos Sur	156.5	3,000	2	800	48,360.00
11	Bantay GID, Ilocos Sur	130.5	4,500	2	800	65,205.00
12	Sia, Maria Whse., Ilocos Sur	91.7	1,500	1	800	16,095.00
13	Chua Warehouse, Ilocos Sur	60.5	2,500	2	800	17,700.00
14	Tagudin FLGC, Ilocos Sur	44.3	2,000	1	800	11,380.00
15	Binalonan Triplex, Eastern Pangasinan	82.0	20,000	4	1,200	191,800.00
16	Rosales I, Eastern Pangasinan	110.0	20,000	4	1,200	244,200.00
17	Alaminos GID, Western Pangasinan	132.0	15,000	3	1,200	219,750.00
18	Kazenbar IV Whse., Western Pangasinan	85.2	44,000	8	2,400	438,680.00
19	Ferrer II Whse, Western Pangasinan	107.2	10,000	2	800	119,000.00

Interested Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Publication 1st Publication	September 2, 2005
2nd Publication	September 9, 2005
2. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	September 2-16, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	September 19, 2005 (3:00 PM)
4. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	September 30, 2005 (3:00 PM)

RBAC reserves the right to undertake Alternative Mode should the subject vessel will arrive earlier than the bidding schedule. All those who secured bidding documents from September 2-16, 2005 will be informed accordingly on the alternative mode that will be adopted by the RBAC.

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-Accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose Registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than September 16, 2005.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "Eligible" or "Ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "Eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered "Ineligible".

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instruction to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must at least be 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Gloria Dacian at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072)-242-59-09 and (072)-700-25-79

RUBEN S. RIMANDO
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - September 4 & 9, 2005)



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Ecop stages Works

PERTURBED BY THE COUNTRY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC conditions - low national savings, poor environmental quality, unreliable labor productivity, nagging unemployment problem, low income, among others - the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) sought the support of firms and the business sector on its population management program in the workplace.

The business sector has long voiced the concern on the rapid increase in population and its effect on economic development. With 85.2 million Filipinos today and a population growth rate of 2.36% every year, it is projected that after 14 years the country's population would have ballooned to 100 million. The population issue, according to Ecop, should rouse policy-makers and economic managers in government in as much as in the near future they would also have to deal with corollary problems like how to feed, clothe, and educate the burgeoning population. "The lack of or insufficient provision of basic needs impinge on our country's human resources. Basic needs like education, if not provided limit full human development, which hampers one's ability to become productive and competitive members of society," Ecop vice president Aniano Bagabaldo stressed.

In response to such concern, Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano and Ecop vice president Aniano G. Bagabaldo, announced the Confederation's program dubbed as W.O.R.K.S. or Workplace-Oriented Reproductive health Knowledge and Services.

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2006:

SERVICE CONTRACT	PROPOSED BUDGET	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1. CY2006 Senate Secretariat Uniform for Male	Php 4,000.00/employee	Php 200.00
2. CY2006 Senate Secretariat Uniform for Female	Php 4,000.00/employee	Php 200.00
3. CY2006 Printing & Binding of "Record of the Senate" (5 vols.)	Php 1,552,474.00	Php 100.00
4. CY2006 Printing & Binding of "Journal of the Senate" (12 vols.)	Php 3,347,300.00	Php 100.00
5. CY2006 Supply of Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Oil, Accessories & Other Related Products		Php 100.00

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting Sept. 5-8 & 12-15, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contract. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurement.gov.ph and the Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 9, 2005)

W.O.R.K.S. is a program that targets the health of both the employers and employees, meaning it covers their general health and reproductive health (RH) as well.

At the same time, the Ecop leadership took the occasion to dwell on the upcoming Pearl Anniversary of Ecop on Sept. 10, noting that "Ecop has evolved from an organization initially concerned with safeguarding and enhancing employers' interests to present-day involvement in labor and social policies and a myriad of workplace issues."

Soriano cited Ecop's major accomplishments, stressing that for the past three (3) decades,

Ecop has pursued through a combination of unilateral, bipartite and tripartite initiatives certain critical courses of action to keep businesses afloat and sustain jobs, such as initiating the signing of various social accords on industrial harmony and stability, mobilizing the business community for the preservation and creation of business and jobs, and providing the Chief Executive with a comprehensive set of proposals embodied in the resolutions of the yearly National Conference of Employers, Business Forums on the Job Crisis and last year's Employers' Summit on Employment and Industrial Relations.

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- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
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VAT on overseas calls dropped

Napocor, 8 co-ops conclude power deals

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. today signed transition supply contracts (TSCs) with eight electric co-operatives in North-eastern Luzon.

Napocor wants to conclude all TSC negotiations, including those for big power distributors, by December.

With the signing of the TSCs, customers of the Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative Inc., Ifugao Electric Cooperative Inc., Quirino Electric Cooperative Inc., Kalinga Electric Cooperative Inc., Isabela I Electric Cooperative Inc., Isabela II Electric Cooperative Inc., Cagayan I Electric Cooperative Inc. and Cagayan II Electric Cooperative Inc. will be assured of more stable power rates and supply.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar yesterday said in a statement that the Energy Regulatory Commission would facilitate the approval of the contracts upon filing with the regulatory body.

Upon final approval by the ERC, customers of the eight electric cooperatives would no longer have to worry about fluctuating rates and supply, Del Callar said.

"The TSCs will, in effect, protect end-users from price volatility while the power generation sector is moving toward full deregulation," he said.

Under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), Napocor has to negotiate a TSC with each of its power distributor-customers in preparation for retail competition and open access in the distribution sector.

Napocor data show that the state firm has 79 distributor-customers with supplemental agreements that have to be converted to TSCs.

As of Sept. 6, only 21 of these have been filed with the ERC, while the other 56 are still under negotiation.

The state firm also has 48 utility-customers awaiting new TSCs. Of these, only 13 have been signed and filed before the ERC, while 33 are still being negotiated.

Among those that have already signed TSCs with Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. are the Aboitizes' Visayan Electric Co. and Davao Light and Power Co., as well as the Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co.

The Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., which controls roughly 70 percent of the electricity market in Luzon, has yet to conclude TSC negotiations with Napocor and PSALM.

Government rewrites new tax law following complaints from telecommunications firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DROPPED plans to impose a value-added tax on overseas calls following complaints from telecommunications companies who said the move would lead to double taxation.

Overseas calls are already subject to a 10-percent overseas communications tax (OCT). Domestic calls, on the other hand, are subject to a 10-percent VAT.

The Department of Finance and its attached agency, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, have amended the revenue regulations of the VAT Reform Law to exempt overseas calls from VAT.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the revised revenue regulation was set for publication and implementation once the Supreme Court lifts the temporary restraining order on the expanded VAT law.

Bonoan earlier said the imposition of 10-percent VAT on top of the existing 10-percent OCT on overseas calls could raise legal questions regarding double taxation, thus making it more difficult for the government to implement the expanded VAT law.

Under Revenue Regulations 14-2005, the basis for formulating the expanded VAT guidelines, overseas calls should be subject to both the 10-percent VAT and 10-percent OCT.

The old revenue regulation said the VAT covered the telecommunication firm rendering the service, while the OCT was the tax liability imposed on the person or entity making the overseas call.

The telecommunications companies questioned the interpretation.

BIR lawyer Nelson Aspe, meanwhile, said the revenue agency would also issue revenue memorandum circulars, to guide the implementation of the expanded VAT on each industry.

He said the BIR needed to issue revenue memorandum circulars to address the unique requirements of each sector. The circulars would include guidelines on how an industry should claim input VAT credits, among others.

The Supreme Court has recently

upheld the constitutionality of the expanded VAT. With the decision, the Arroyo administration expects the high court to lift the temporary restraining order on the law's implementation by the end of the month.

The Supreme Court issued the TRO on the implementation of the expanded VAT last July 1, the first day of the law's effectivity. The TRO was issued following petitions from opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers.

The DOF said that should the TRO be lifted before the end of the month and therefore pave the way for the law's implementation in October, the government could still generate P9 billion in additional revenues this year from the law.

The DOF estimated that the law could generate over P80 billion in additional revenues every year starting next year.

The VAT law expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity among others. It also provides for an increase in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting 2006.



PANGLAO INT'L AIRPORT DEV'T

Robert Dean Barbers of the Philippine Tourism Authority (center) briefs members of the Tourism Program for the development of the international airport in Bohol. With him are Edgar Chatto of Bohol (right) and Jose Torralba of the transportation department.

Sugar in tight supply

By Christine A. Gaylican

BANANA EXPORTERS ARE IN for a windfall as increasing demand from Japan and non-traditional markets, including the Middle East, is seen to translate into higher dollar earnings for the traders in the second half of the year.

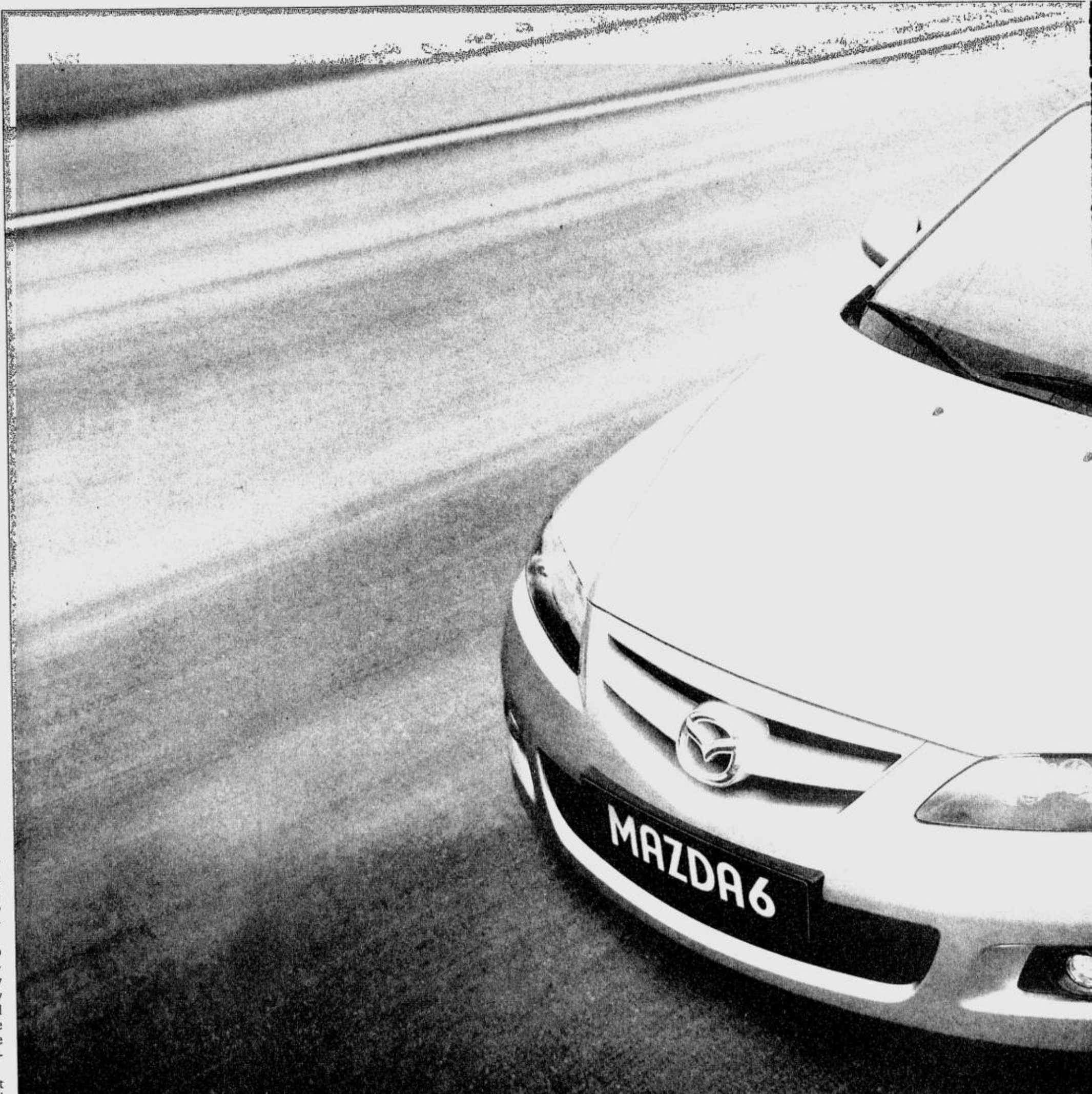
The rising demand has prompted some sugar farmers

in Bukidnon to shift to bananas, resulting in a decline in sugar production.

From September 2004 up to August 2005, only 2.15 million metric tons of bananas were harvested as opposed to the 2.27 million metric tons of the previous crop year, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority.

This represented a 5.2 per-

cent drop from the 2.35 million metric tons harvested last year, according to the ministry of agriculture. The supply of bananas for export is expected to be around 2.2 million metric tons, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority. The price of bananas in the local market is around P920 per metric ton, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority. The price of bananas in the local market is around P920 per metric ton, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority.



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DTI sends more trade attachés abroad to tap growing markets

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry yesterday announced the deployment abroad of 11 commercial attachés to tap prospects in key growing markets such as China and the United States.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the expansion of DTI's Foreign Trade Service Corps meant that 25 trade offices would now cover 20 countries that account for 80 percent of the Philippines' overseas trade.

The job of a commercial attaché is to promote exports of goods and services, provide com-

mercial intelligence to the government and business sectors, and promote inward investments.

Commercial attachés also provide assistance in bilateral and multilateral trade and economic negotiations.

Veteran Trade Service Officer Jorge Judan would oversee the DTI-FTSC's Greater China concerns, with new attachés Enrico Mariano in Beijing and Emmanuel Ang in Guangzhou.

New attachés were also sent to the United States: Josephine Romero in New York, Veronica Bartolome in Washington DC, and Glenn Peñaranda in the newly reopened post in Chicago.

The new postings also include Senior Trade Representative Simeon Hernandez Jr. in South Korea, STR Edgardo Garcia in Singapore, and TSO Cassandra Sawadjaan in Indonesia.

In Europe, TSO Althea Karen Antonio was sent to the Paris office while TSO Raymond Albert Batac would take over TSO Johanes Bernabe's post at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Aquino said the new postings specifically stressed on the China and US markets, which are the country's top two trading partners and where continued growth are expected.

Members of the Panglao South Barbers are Rep. ...

as farmers take to growing bananas

in production.

Christopher Ledesma Sugar Regulatory Admision said that the tight has resulted in higher prices for the com-

anging between P900 per 50-kilogram bag.

ling to Francisco

senior vice president

nday Foods Corp., the

producing sector will

sustain gains in the remaining months of the year as orders from both new and traditional markets have been lining up.

"There is an expected kick in banana production in the second semester and we will have more volumes ready," Lorenzo told the INQUIRER.

Philippine banana exports in the first half of the year grew by 8.4 percent to 908,286 metric

tons compared to the 837,500 metric tons delivered during the same period last year, records from the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) indicated.

For the Middle East alone, shipments of local companies during the period have moved up 13 percent to 198,992 metric tons compared to the

176,108 metric tons exported last year.

Lorenzo said that Filipino banana exporters have cornered a bigger share of the \$70-million Japanese market.

Also, demand from other markets such as South Korea New Zealand and Singapore have risen by 14.2 percent, 10 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

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The New 2.3L Mazda6 - Cutting-Edge Technology in Driver and Passenger Safety

Mazda, through ingenious technical innovations and uniquely advanced engineering, has built an engineering and technological correlation that benefits consumers and excites enthusiasts. With a 5-star Euro NCAP rating, this 2.3L Mazda6 is a prime example of a powerful yet secure automobile that stimulates the senses yet also eases the mind.

Safety Features

The new Mazda6 features a stunning brake system that outclasses all competitors from its engine class with a braking distance of 37m, easily the shortest in its class. Electronic Brakeforce Distribution equips the car with the ability to optimize the brake-to-pedal ratio. A new high-rigidity brake hose helps ensure an efficient supply of hydraulic pressure to all four wheels. Its huge 283mm ventilated front discs and 280mm rear discs deftly control the car's powerful engine and lend the driver a feeling of safety in any driving situation. Mazda's intrusion - minimizing brake pedal is designed for the brakes to pivot away from the driver in a collision, rather than being pushed towards it. ABS (anti-lock braking system) comes as standard but it is Traction Control System (TCS) that is the soul of this rather complex car.

TCS enhances traction and safety by regulating engine torque. TCS detects driving wheel slippage, and lowers engine torque to prevent loss of traction. This superbly considered system encourages the driver to maneuver with more confidence and freedom when faced with less than perfect conditions. The car also features Whiplash minimizing front seats that absorb the impact of a passenger's neck when it is jarred during collision.

Rear ISOFIX anchors for child seats and a shock-absorbing bonnet for pedestrian safety emphasize Mazda's care for rear passengers as well.

Collision Protection

Driver and passenger safety has always been a priority for Mazda, and Mazda6 places great emphasis on it. The vehicle features MAHAB (Mazda Advanced Impact Distribution and Absorption System) with Triple-II structure that ensures each car is sufficiently protected for any unfortunate accidents.

The car is primed for dangerous frontal collisions by applying solid torsional rigidity and a perimeter frame that works with a b-frame to effectively absorb frontal accidents. Passengers located at the side of a collision are protected by thicker b-pillar reinforcements, larger cross sections and an increased rigidity of outer-door panel reinforcements. Front airbags detect the force of impact and react accordingly, avoiding unnecessary injury to the driver and front passenger. Curtain and side impact airbags provide protection for both rear and front passengers.

New Safety Features

Mazda's outstandingly innovative auto HLD headlamps accurately detect when the lights should be turned on/off by checking for driving conditions around the vehicle. Two sensors precisely control the system - a forward facing Front Light Sensor and an upward-facing Ambient Light Sensor. A new rain-sensing system also gives the driver one less thing to worry about as it employs an infrared sensor trained on the windshield that judges the wetness and acts accordingly - on or off, intermittent, low or high speed.

Mazda's new safety features signify their enthusiasm for manufacturing and designing high-performance, innovative automobiles. Mazda continues to reinforce its commitment to its customers as it continues to manufacture cutting-edge, technologically advanced cars like the 2.3L Mazda6.

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- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- With at least 3 years of work experience specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent
- Applicants with 2 years experience in a supervisory capacity are encouraged to apply.
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Willing and able to start with SPI immediately
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

Qualified candidates may send their updated resumes to:
 For PDI-SMGR: j.labis@spitech.com
 For PDI-PRG: r.araga@spitech.com

Submit personally or mail application to:
 SPI Technologies
 SPI Building, Pascor Drive
 Sta. Niño, Paranaque City 1700

Include position code on the envelope or in the subject line.

PROGRAMMERS (PDI-PRG)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- With at least 3 years of work experience specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent
- Applicants with 2 years experience in a supervisory capacity are encouraged to apply.
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Willing and able to start with SPI immediately
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

Qualified candidates may send their updated resumes to:
 For PDI-SMGR: j.labis@spitech.com
 For PDI-PRG: r.araga@spitech.com

Submit personally or mail application to:
 SPI Technologies
 SPI Building, Pascor Drive
 Sta. Niño, Paranaque City 1700

Include position code on the envelope or in the subject line.

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 2% w/o Taking Car 8958454
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 papers 7436244 • 5049292

ST BERNARD M/F 0917-6221034

LEGAL NOTICE

Notico is hereby given that the
 estate of the late NG SENG LAO
 has been extrajudicially settled by
 their heirs with waiver of rights as
 per Dec. No. 215, Page No. 20,
 Book No. XXII, Series of 2005 of
 Notary Public Jose V. Marcolina.
 (PDI-Sept 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

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 INTERESTED APPLICANTS
 MAY APPLY ON OR BEFORE
 SEPT. 10 AT UNIT C G/F
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 ST., SALCEDO VIL. MKT CTY.
 TEL. 8132927

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OFC STAFF #09193318380

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Manila Memorial Park
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



THE
HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

Our dearly beloved Papa

Ang Chay Pue



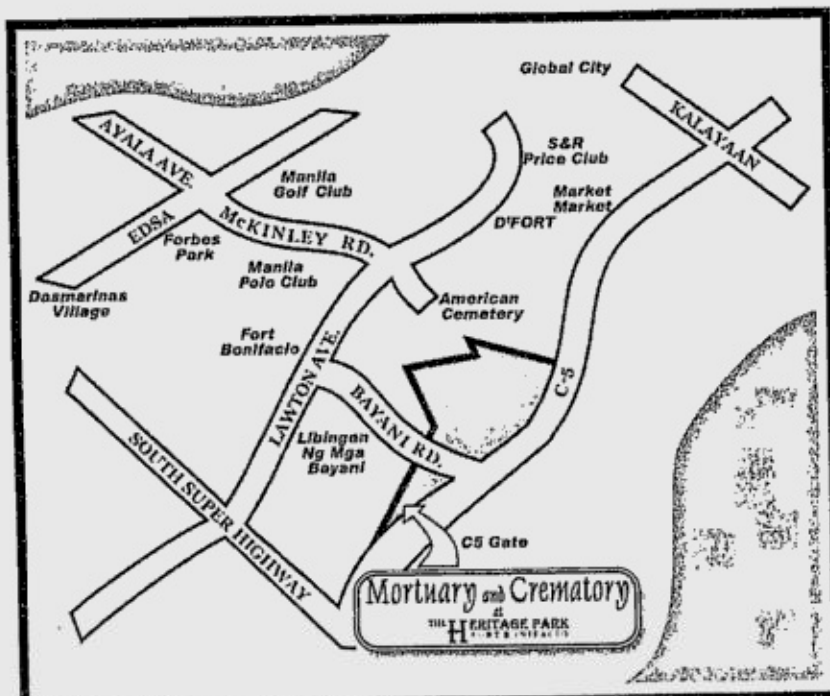
Has peacefully joined our Lord on September 7, 2005
at the age of 78

He shall be truly missed by his loving wife **Siok Bee**;

children **Tony & Charing, Felix & Grace, Lilian & Edward, Zabeth & Tim** and **Janet**

grandchildren **Reagan, Royce, Anchesca, Anro, Frankie, KD, Patty, Lanz,**

Camille, Zoe and Zovindji



His remains lie in state at the Mortuary and Crematory
at The Heritage Park, C5 Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Interment will be announced on a later date

CLASSIFIEDS



UNIDEN ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES REGISTERS WITH PEZA

Uniden Electronics Philippines, Inc. an ecozone export enterprise, recently registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) to manufacture electronics communication products such as digital cordless telephones, digital scanners, and general mobile radio systems (GMRS) at the Light Industry and Science Park of the Philippines Special Economic Zone. Shown in the photo are (from left): Melchor Guillermo, assistant vice president of Uniden Electronics Philippines, Inc; Yasutaka Sagiyama, president of Uniden Electronics Philippines, Inc; Lilia B. de Lima, Director General of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; Liberty S. Lagangan, assistant vice president of Uniden Electronics Philippines, Inc.



NEW PEZA FIRM, JFE Shoji Steel Philippines, Inc. an ecozone export enterprise, recently registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) to engage in the processing / fabrication, slitting of all metals ferrous and non-ferrous and their products and derivatives at the Laguna Technopark Special Economic Zone. Shown in photo (from left) are Koji Yamanishi, president of JFE Shoji Steel Philippines Inc; Lilia B. de Lima, director general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; and Atsushi Fukue, admin. and finance manager of JFE Shoji Steel Philippines Inc.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

September 8, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act and/or continuing appropriations for CY 2005, intends to apply the sum of **Nine Million Three Hundred Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P9,351,500.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of 500 cartridges - Toner for Lexmark T632 Laser Printers. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Brand new toners for Lexmark T632 Laser Printer with printing capacity of 21,000 pages per toner, Product Number 12A7462 and with shelf life of two (2) years from the date of delivery. Delivery of the GOODS is required by Fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of Approved Purchase Order.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 198. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief Procurement Division at the address given below from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM starting September 9, 2005.
- A Complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One and 50/100 Pesos Only (P9,351.50) to the BIR Cashier.
- The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., 3/F Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address on or before October 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on October 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at 3/F Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
- The Bureau of Internal Revenue assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
- The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm. 805, BIF Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 8265547 / Telefax No. 9282026
Email address: bsc@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. JAMES H. ROLDAN
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 9 & 10, 2005)

For Sale
HIGH DRIVE BELGIAN MALINOIS PUPS
2 months, with shots and papers; 3 male P12,000.00 each;
4 female P14,000.00 each
Look for Mr. Boy Lee: 9413242 • 9340188



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF CORN USERS' FORUM

The National Food Authority wishes to announce the conduct of a Corn Users' Forum wherein all interested corn users are invited to participate. A total volume of 28,000 MT or 560,000 bags of yellow and white corn earmarked for procurement shall be offered for auction as a component of the Corn Marketing Assistance Program for Industry Producers/Users and Local Government Units (LGUs).

Qualified participants shall be corn users such as corn millers, feed millers and poultry and hog raisers / breeders registered with either the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and LGUs of major corn producing areas. The Corn Users' Forum shall be held simultaneously on September 15, 2005 at the following NFA Offices. Registration shall start at 8:30 a.m. and Forum Proper at 9:00 a.m.

Venue	Contact Person
NFA Central Office 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City	Asst. Director Tomas R. Escarez Tel. No. (02) 712-1584 ; 712-1572
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City	Asst. Regional Director Pio C. Santos Telo. No. (032) 232-1939 ; 232-6832
NFA General Santos Office Lagao Road, General Santos City General Santos	Asst. Regional Director Dianne A. Silva Tel. No. (083) 544-3200 ; 227-4166
NFA Cagayan de Oro Office Bgy. Tablon, Balcay Cagayan de Oro City	Asst. Regional Director Camilo D. Magtrayo Tel. No. (088) 732-215 ; 855-2721

Terms and conditions and other pertinent documents may be secured starting September 13, 2005 at the aforementioned venues during regular working hours. Interested participants are advised to coordinate with the concerned contact persons for any inquiries or clarifications.

A non-refundable fee of P500.00 per corn user/LGU participant shall be collected upon registration. The corn user shall submit, together with the Letter of Intent (LOI), a certified photocopy of Certificate of Registration with any appropriate registering agency.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any formality thereof, and accept only such offers that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) LUDOVICO J. JARINA
Asst. Administrator for Industry Development
& Chairman, Corn Users' Forum Committee

(PDI - Sept. 9, 2005)

"The Lord is my Shepherd,
there is nothing more I shall want..."

Our Beloved "Tatay"

Apolinario E. Bordador

Peacefully joined his Creator and his loving
wife Remedios R. Salaveria and son Dr. Rene Bordador
at the age of 98.

His children

Leonila & Proceso Santos
Florescia vda. de Lasam
Soledad & Dr. Jose Ma. Viray
Fe & Alejandro Z. Barin
Rosario vda. de Guzman
Drs. Adoracion & Petronio Alava
Carmelita Villena vda. de Bordador
Apolinar & Benilda Villarica
Dolores & Lope Yuvienzo

sister

Candida B. Muñoz

grandchildren, great grandchildren,
& other relatives & friends request fervent prayers
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C,
Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Cremation will be after the Holy Mass at 8:30 a.m.
on Sunday, September 11, 2005.

"Your word, O Lord, will last forever; It is eternal in heaven."
(Psalm 119:89)

Forever in our hearts....

We remember our beloved

ATTY. JOSE SANTIAGO ATIENZA

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre
who joined his Creator on 10 September 1998

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated tomorrow in the following churches:

Villa San Miguel Chapel, VSM Compound, Mandaluyong City	6:15 AM
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Cabanatuan City	5:00 AM
St. Peter's Parish Church, Apalit, Pampanga	6:00 AM
Adoration Convent of the Divine Mercy/Pink Sisters, Tagaytay City	6:30 AM
Divina Pastora National Shrine, Gapan City	8:30 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, Welfarville, Mandaluyong City	5:00 PM
Parish of the Resurrection, BF Homes I, Parañaque City	5:30 PM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	7:15 PM

His wife, Esther M. Cacio, his children-in-laws: Paz, Jun & Rae, Manny & Rona and Michael; and his grandchildren: Jella, Julianne, Justine, Lyka, Mico and Tricia request the pious readers to say a prayer for his eternal repose.



The Management and Staff
of
MANPROM INC.

announce with sorrow the untimely demise of their beloved General Manager

Francisco M. Ambas, Jr.

He was a compassionate leader, a charismatic and seasoned Media practitioner,
an ultimate professional, and a much loved colleague.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Francisco 'Jun' Ambas, Advertising Executive, 54

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE FRANCISCO M. Ambas, Jr., passed away yesterday afternoon (Sept.5) after a brief bout with cancer, his family announced today. He was 54.

A leukemia survivor in his 30's, Jun Ambas succumbed to cancer of the gall bladder following a recent operation.

Ambas was General Manager of Manprom Advertising Agency for a number of years. Prior to joining Manprom, Ambas was a VP for Marketing of Metromedia Publishers, Inc., original publishers of Metro Magazine and Benpress Publications, which later acquired the title from the LJC Group.

Under his stewardship of the publishing

company's advertising division, Metro Magazine became a robust monthly glossy that is still a market leader today under ABS-CBN.

Ambas was also marketing Director of the LJC Restaurant Group in the mid 80's prior to transferring to the publication group.

Ambas is survived by his wife, Lorna Cruz Ambas, son H. Francisco "Kiko" and daughter Karissa "Kookie", mother Magdalena Ambas, and siblings Celestino, Rosario, Carmelita, Flor, Amor, Maria Theresa and Fernando. His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla de San Francisco, in Forbes park. Mass is said daily at 7pm. The Funeral Mass will be at 9 am on Saturday, September 10. Cremation rites will follow at Heritage Park.

CLASSIFIEDS



Supreme Court

Committee on Halls of Justice-Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the repair and rehabilitation of the Halls of Justice Tuguegarao City, Aparri, Cagayan and Baler, Aurora.

The estimated contract periods and the approved budgets for each of the contract packages to be sourced from the Judiciary Development Fund, are as follows:

CONTRACT PACKAGE	APPROVED BUDGET	COMPLETION PERIOD
1. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Tuguegarao City Hall of Justice	Php 1,426,008.87	Thirty (30) Calendar Days
2. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Aparri, Cagayan Hall of Justice	Php 1,899,805.05	Sixty (60) Calendar Days
3. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Baler, Aurora Hall of Justice	Php 1,897,977.71	Sixty (60) Calendar Days

Eligibility forms shall be available upon submission of the Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility at the Committee on Halls of Justice-Secretariat, 7th Floor Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

Interested bidders are advised to take note of the following schedules:

Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	08 to 13 September 2005
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	20 September 2005, 9:00 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court
Issuance of Bid Documents (upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php1,000.00 per package)	27 September to 04 October 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	18 October 2005, 9:30 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court
Submission and Opening of Bids	04 November 2005, 9:30 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court

Awards shall be made to the bidders who submit the lowest calculated responsive bid and who are post-qualified. Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 and its IRR.

For additional information, contact Atty. Peter John Javier or Engr. Arnold Paradero at (02) 552-9589 to 94 or send an e-mail to chojbac@yahoo.com.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or to waive any defect or informality therein.

02 September 2005

(Original Signed)
CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Chairman, CHOJ-BAC

(PDI - Sept. 2 & 9, 2005)



Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB)

Ames Bldg., DAR Central Office Compound, EDSA Road, Diliman, Quezon City

The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board is inviting applications for:

PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDICATORS (PARADs-SG 27)

Qualifications:

Lawyer-applicants have practiced law in the Philippines for a period of not less than seven (7) years or held during a like period an office requiring admission to the practice of law as an indispensable requisite.

Experience and background in the field of agrarian reform during or after such period of practice/tenure of office is helpful but not necessary.

Vacancies:

REGION	PROVINCE
II	Cagayan
	Batanes
III	Aurora
IV	Cavite
	Marikina
	Occidental Mindoro
	Palawan
	Rizal
	Romblon
V	Albay
	Catanduanes
	Camarines Sur
	Sorsogon
VIII	Southern Leyte
	Eastern Samar
	Northern Samar
	Leyte
IX	Basilan
X	Bukidnon
	Lanao del Norte
XI	Davao City
	Davao Oriental
	Davao del Norte
	Sultan Kudarat
XII	South Cotabato
	Iligao
CAR	Agusan del Sur
CARAGA	Surigao del Norte
	Surigao del Sur
	Maguindanao
ARMM	Lanao del Sur
	Sulu

Screening examinations will be conducted simultaneously on September 17, 2005 at 9:00-12:00 a.m. at the following venues:

- Office of the DARAB Secretariat - DAR Central Office, Diliman, Q.C.
- DARAB Region X - Vamenta Bldg., Macanhan, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City.
- DARAB Region XI - Ecoland, Davao City and
- DARAB Region VIII - Sto. Niño Ext., Tacloban City

Interested applicants are required to bring to the examination site a valid I.D., updated resume/bio-data, bar rating, 3 samples of legal pleadings/other written work, and transcript of records.

For the Board:

(Sgd.) Atty. FE ARCHE-MANALANG
OIC-Executive Director

(PDI - September 9, 2005)



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy Services for the proposed Space Rationalization, Planning and Furniture Standardization Project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Main Complex.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P11.0 Million. The scope of the work includes among others the preparation of a space rationalization program based on the proper zoning of all BSP Main Complex departments and offices to be able to consolidate these into 1 or 2 buildings taking into consideration security and parking requirements and the new BSP Organizational Structure; the space planning and all related engineering works for the implementation of the Space Rationalization program of all BSP departments and offices including the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates for all necessary office relocation and renovation works; and the design and preparation of the technical specifications and layout of standard furniture for the BSP.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation).
- The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy services, at least five (5) completed projects of similar nature like offices, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.
- The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design.
- The firm must have at least one Registered Architect, Interior Designer and Engineer with at least ten (10) years design experience. (The key personnel must be a full-time employee of the firm. Otherwise, the declared key personnel must have participated in at least three (3) design projects with the same firm and must submit a deed of undertaking committing himself/herself to participate in the project on a full time basis, in case of award).
- The firm (individual/partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen. (Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines).
- A consultancy firm with at least two (2) on-going and/or awarded BSP consultancy projects at the time of this invitation will not be allowed to participate in this consultancy service requirement.
- In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A and E design Consultancy Services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
- For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on August 31 to September 12, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P500.00. Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished in the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on September 16, 2005.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bids is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JOAN DE ZUNIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI-August 29 & September 9, 2005)

NFA holds training on 'Thermal Processes for Canned Foods'

THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) will conduct a training course on the "Establishment of Thermal Processes for Canned Foods" on Sept. 13 to 16, at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig City. The training course aims to upgrade the technical capability of participants from the canned food industry in establishing adequate thermal processes for canned foods. It is designed for technical personnel with educational background in food science, food engineering, microbiology or related fields and industry experience in food canning. The course will consist of lecture-discussions, hands-on exercises and demonstrations, slides presentation and examination. The course fee is P6,200 per participant inclusive of meals and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati. For further inquiries, please contact Amelia S. Bautista, FDC-NFA, FTI Complex, Taguig City at 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478 and fax no. 838-4017 and 838-4692 and at e-mail address infotdc@pacific.net.ph

Job World International Job Fair

SOME 4,000 JOBSEEKERS ARE EXPECTED TO troop to the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard corner Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City and match their skills and talents with some 30 exhibitor companies in The 3rd Job World 2005 Reload International Job Fair, touted to be the most awaited job fair in the country. It will be on a limited engagement run on Sept. 9 and 10, Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fresh from its huge success this March, the fair aims to be the complete matching point center for both employers and jobseekers and a major source of both employment opportunities and talents, with job opportunities in various sectors including manufacturing, information technology, industrial and services sectors.

Job World 2005 incorporates the 3rd Call Center Job Fair, where top call centers will offer job opportunities to the country's vast talent pool

and The 3rd Job World 2005 Seminars.

The job fair features job opportunities from here and from all over the world, from a wide variety of industries, namely in the manufacturing, information technology, automotive, banking, insurance, real estate, services and other sectors.

Exhibitors who want to participate in this grand job fair may contact Neotrader at 8129099 or 812-7450 or e-mail at neotrader1@yahoo.com.

**The Board of Directors, Officers
and Employees**

Of

**MJL AGRO-DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
INAEC AGRO-INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
UNIVERSITY OF ILOILO
FERNANDO H. LOPEZ FOUNDATION, INC.**

announce with deep sorrow the passing away of their beloved director

**FERNANDO J. LOPEZ, JR.
“JUNJIE”**

who joined his Creator on September 6, 2005 at the age of 74.

His remains shall lie in state at the Chapel at the Lopez Compound, La Paz, Iloilo City,
Necrological services will be on Friday, September 9, 2005, after the 2 o'clock Mass at the
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo City.

Interment of his ashes will be on Sunday, September 11, 2005, after the 9:00 a.m.
Mass at the Colonial Chapel.

**FERNANDO J. LOPEZ, JR.
“JUNJIE”**

*February 4, 1931 – September 6, 2005
Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 6, 2005
after receiving the Last Sacraments.*

His bereaved family:

Father : Vice President Fernando Hofileña-Lopez (†)
Mother : Doña Mariquit Javellana-Lopez (†)

Siblings and in-laws : Yolanda, Benito (†) and Corazon, Albert and Emily,
Milagros (†) and Junior, Emanuelle.

Nephews and Nieces : Panchito, Judgee & Sarah, Ginny & Dave, Roxanne
& Jobee, Ollie & Chichoy, Ona & Arthur, Toto &
Odette, Ella & Eddie, Benjie, Andy & Sonnie, Dondi
& Terry, Allan, Tito, Celine, Bettina & Serge, Melissa
& Joel, Bertie & Lorna, Maricel (†)

Grand Nephews and Nieces : Reina, Audrey, McArthur, Alexis, Allana, Pepper,
Rita, Andrea, Jordana, Tonette, Risa, Adie, Rica.

His remains shall lie in state at the Chapel at the Lopez Compound, Luna St., La Paz,
Iloilo City. Necrological services today, September 9, 2005 after the 2:00 PM Mass at
the St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo City.

GLOBE GCASH and SM

expand mobile shopping experience

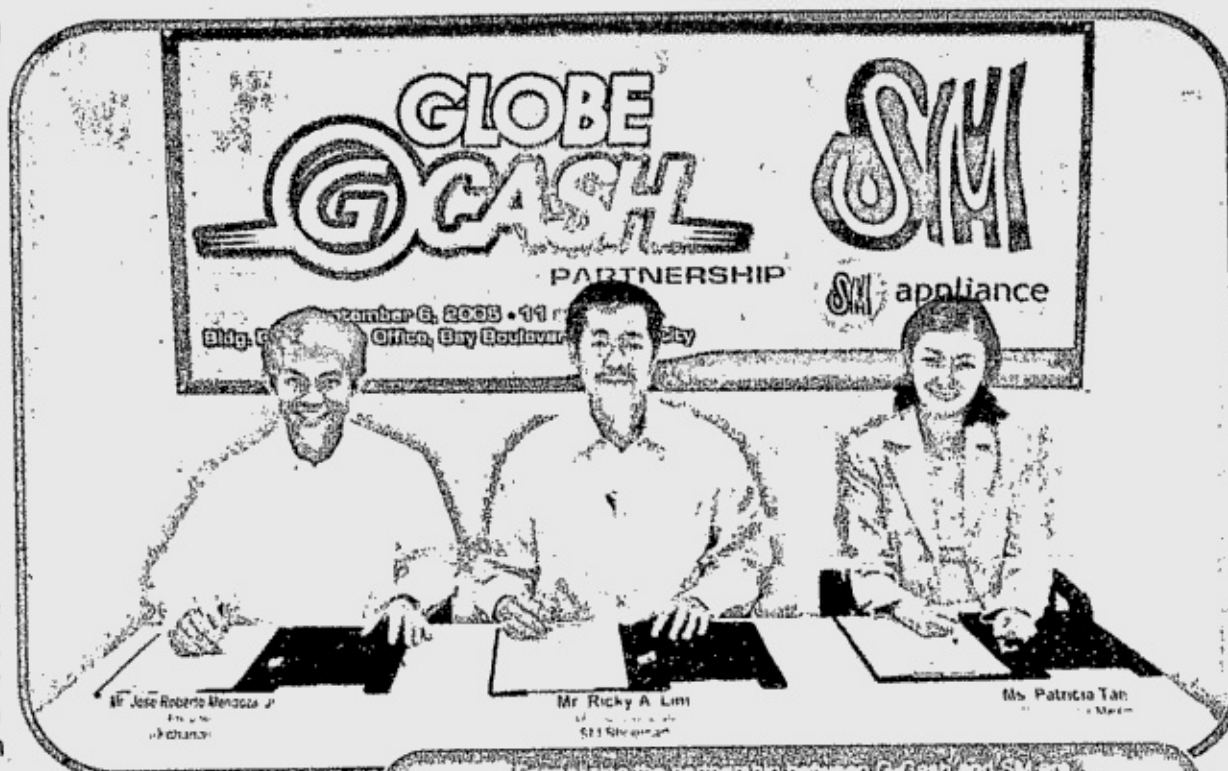
With Globe G-Cash, the country's only wireless, cashless and cardless integrated mobile payment system to date, the Filipino consumer has been exposed to the conveniences of making fundamental commercial transactions – including retail purchases, bills payment, prepaid reloading, remittances, and phone-to-phone money transfer – simply by using one's mobile phone. To date, more than 1 million registered subscribers have experienced a variety of G-Cash transactions in nearly 4,000 partner establishments and outlets, both locally and worldwide.

G-Cash has recently expanded its partnership with SM Shoemart, Inc. from strictly remittance transactions to include purchases and payments, making G-Cash the first m-commerce service to integrate with the retail giant's existing point-of-sale (POS) system. This allows the nearly 14 million combined Globe Handyphone and TM subscriber base to use their G-Cash mobile wallet to make full or partial payments for SM Department Store purchases. The service is currently available at SM Megamall, and will be rolled out soon in other SM branches nationwide.

As an added bonus for mobile shoppers, G-Cash transactions amounting to P200 and above (single purchase receipt) can be exchanged for corresponding SM Advantage points. By presenting their SM Advantage loyalty card at the time of purchase, G-Cash users will receive one point for every P200 purchase and fractions of a point for amounts exceeding P200 (Ex. P250 = 1.25 pts). Mobile shoppers may also choose to present their G-Cash transaction receipts at the G-Cash booth in SM Megamall Building A for a chance to win premium items and freebies. Both promos end October 5, 2005.

For increased shopping convenience, mobile shoppers can reload their G-Cash mobile wallet at the SM Department Store customer service counter for a minimum transaction fee of P10 or 1% of the corresponding G-Cash value. They may also avail of a waived processing fee for exchanging their cash to G-Cash at Globe Business Centers until October 15, 2005.

This retail partnership will also benefit Filipinos working abroad, who will soon be able to



use their G-Cash mobile wallet to buy appliances for their families through the SM Appliance Center website, www.sm-appliance.com.

With this collaboration with SM, G-Cash has once again transformed the Filipino shopping experience. Establishments interested in finding out how to provide G-Cash functionalities for their existing clientele may call the G-Cash hotline at (02)739-2882.



Mag-shopping na sa



And get BONUS SM Advantage points!

Napakadali nang manirli sa SM Megamall Department Store*

1. Just text PAY SM <store code> <amount> to 2318 for every P100 minimum purchase. P2.50/transaction.
2. You will receive a confirmation message from 2882+reference number.
3. Confirm the transaction by sending your M-PIN.
4. Present your receipt to claim your free gift at the G-Cash booth.



Use your G-Cash, together with your SM Advantage Card to earn Bonus Points! See posters and flyers for details.

Register to G-Cash
Text REG <4-digit M-PIN> / <mother's maiden name> / <first name> / <last name> / <address> / <telephone no.> to 2882

Exchange cash to G-Cash
Go to the Customer Service area of the SM Megamall Department Store and convert your cash to G-Cash or go to the G-Cash booth at the Upper Ground Floor, Building A. You can also go to the Globe Telecom Business Center located at the 5/F Building B.

Processing fee is FREE at the Globe Telecom Business Centers until October 15, 2005.



* Initially available at SM Megamall.

Per DTI-NCII Permit No. A3-718, Series of 2005.

BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

RP firms need to get dose of technology

by Ian Jester M. de Vera
U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries

TECHNOLOGY is a long word. But it doesn't mean you have to be scared by it.

If you're an entrepreneur, chances are, you are considering-or have considered-using a technology that will make your business grow and be more competitive.

You want to make it big. You think you have the skill (for otherwise your business may not have lasted this long) but you realize there's a need for you to catch up, and that one of the ways to do it is to get the right technology for your business and using it right.

If you don't know how to start adopting new technology, this guide may be able to help.

Where to get it

Before making any major purchase, don't we usually canvass first? The same goes for acquiring new technology. Go to your suppliers and customers, visit fairs and exhibits, or consult government agencies.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program would be a good source of information on the latest trends in science and technology.

You can also check out academic institutions like the University of the Philippines.

For technology on food processing, for example, visit the Pilot Food Plant at the College of Home Economics in the Diliman campus.

For agriculture-related technologies, you may inquire at the UP campus in Los Baños, Laguna.

There are also various means by which you can get technology infor-



mation from these institutions.

These include participation in training programs on specific mature technologies developed by these organizations, getting hold of copies of technical guides and other publications and reference materials for various technologies and inventions, and availing yourselves of consultancy services provided by these institutions at socialized rates.

The Internet is also good source of information on the latest technologies.

The website of the APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), for example, has a link with

the Asia-Pacific Centre for Technology Exchange and Transfer, where you can choose mature technologies in the Philippines.

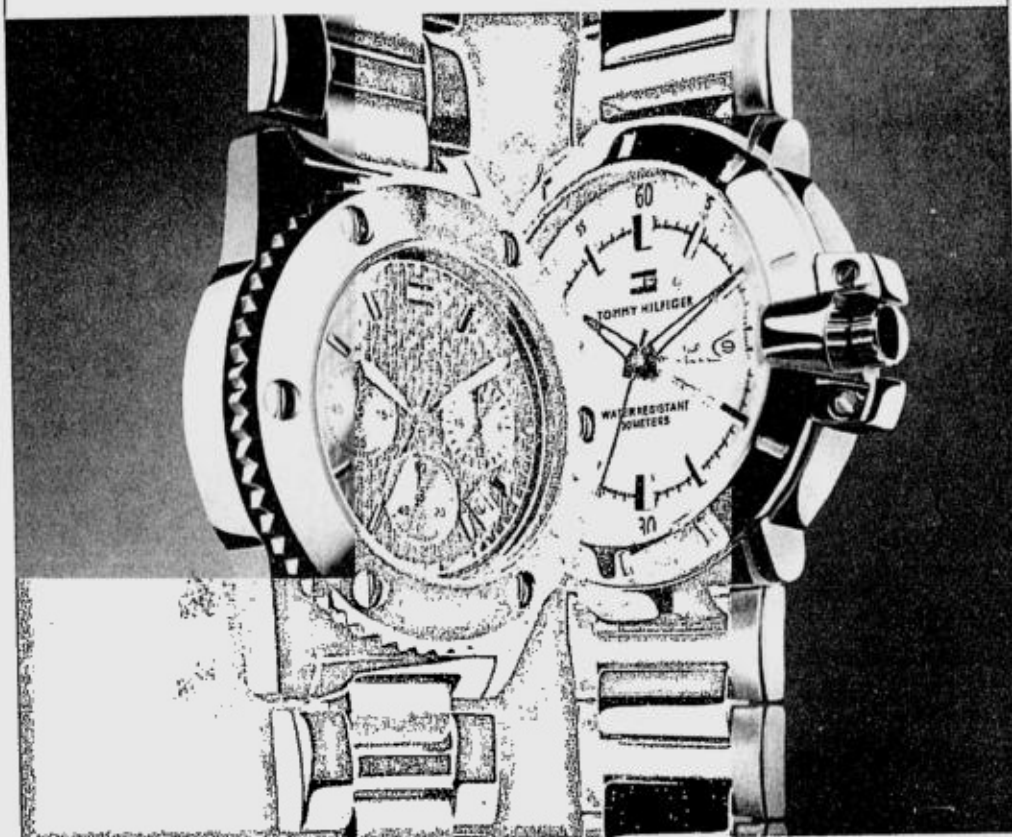
The classes are further classified into more specific categories.

Other means of getting the right technology include networking with other entrepreneurs, business information centers like the Department of Trade and Industry SME Centers scattered nationwide, and companies that have the financial capacity to use foreign or local technologies.

The next step is choosing the "right one." You first study which one

RP FIRMS/B2-7

TOMMY HILFIGER WATCHES



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- Channel Block
- Auto Shut-off Function

+Free TV Rack
for every purchase of
Sanyo Flat TV, at selected
appliance stores.



+Free Sanyo portable
stereo with headphones for
every purchase of Sanyo Flat TV,
nationwide.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4849, Series of 2005.

Buzz, billboards and price wars



QUESTION: We agree with your idea that word-of-mouth is an underutilized advertising media. From the way you profiled its potential and power, we certainly find it attractive. But how can we stimulate buzz communication?

Answer: Buzz marketing is a function of your advertising copy and buzz media.

The copy or ad message that stimulates buzzing is one that has a conversation value to its target audience.

Conversation value means, in the words of consumers we've researched, "tsismis-able siya (it's fodder for rumors)," "sarap niyang pag-usap-usapan (it's a good topic)," "yung enjoy kang i-pass on sa e-mail o texting (it's fun to pass along by e-mail or texting)," "yung alam mong pag i-share mo sa iba, matutuwa sila (something that you know others will enjoy when you share it with them)," and the like.

In fact, when your product or brand makes it to the websites that archive SMS jokes, you know you've made it!

For example, here's a joke that was passed on like an I-Love-You virus. It's about AMA Computer College and Jolina Magdangal, its celebrity endorser.

Reaction upon the loss of a wallet:

DLSU: Lost my credit cards!

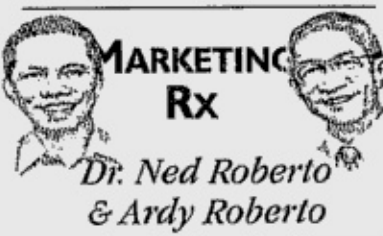
Ateneo: Lost 10 grand!

UST: Lost my Cartier wallet!

UP: Lost my driver's license, too!

AMA: Ay! Nasama yung picture ni Jolina

Buzz, media is evolving and



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

we're just beginning to learn more about it.

But the known and proven ones are, as mentioned in the preceding consumer quotes, the texting function of mobile phones and celebrities, especially talk show celebrities, to mention just two. (Why do you think Boy Abunda branded his TV show as "The Buzz"?)

For the nitty-gritty details on the development of a word-of-mouth-driven ad campaign, consult with an ad agency that has expertise and experience with buzz marketing like Gallardo & Associates (or GASSO). The senior MRx-er has been undertaking word-of-mouth ad research and studies sponsored by this ad agency. You can also read Malcolm Gladwell's "Tipping Point," or "All Marketers are Liars" by Seth Godin.

Q: Please explain why the Filipino language makes Filipinos good tsismosos (defined here as buzz innovators)?

A: According to psycholinguists who have studied different languages and dialects, Malay-based languages (under which Filipino belongs) have more negative than positive adjectives, to the tune of 3-1.

We're not certain of this ratio and we need to check, but it's along that magnitude when compared to Western languages, especially English where the ratio is somewhere in the range of only 1.5 to 1.

Psycholinguists tell us that Filipinos therefore grow up with a language that predisposes us (as

communicators) to being "pin-taseros" and "pintaseras" (fault finders), more than being "mamumurt" (praise givers).

That's because our Filipino language gives us more ammunition (i.e., more negative adjectives) to criticize and fault-find than to praise and complement.

By definition, "tsismis" and "tsismisas" (buzzers) tell half-truths or plain lies. The language of half-truths and lies are primarily negative adjectives. And that's where our Filipino language is much richer (unfortunately, not the kind of richness you can be proud of) relative to positive adjectives.

Q: How should we handle a price war when our product is superior over our competitor?

A: First of all, make sure that it is your target consumer segment that attests to the superiority of your product. Not just you. If this is the case, then you're participating in a premium market segment where your consumers are willing to pay a higher price for the superior value they are getting from you.

When you speak of a price war, it will be a "price brand" in the price or economy (or even the sub-economy) market segment that will initiate that. So the brands that will be affected are other price or economy brands.

This should therefore have only a minimal effect on your premium brand. You'll of course find a few of your consumers who will "experiment" with the cheaper economy brand waging the price war. It's an experiment, and sooner or later (sooner, more than later), they'll come back to your brand.

The research of Kevin Clancy, former chairman of the respected New York survey research agency, Yankelovich Clancy and Shulman, gives supporting research data:

"Only between 15 and 35 percent of buyers in most frequently bought grocery product cate-

gories are price-sensitive. So it's usually wrong for a strong, distinctive brand to plunge into price discounting to respond to low-price attacks."

Q: You said once that billboards are effective when they have a call to action. But the billboards of Bench have no call to action. They're just plain branding and imaging. Is that an exemption?

A: Our research showed that a billboard with a call to action has superior performance in awareness, recall and is more effective at motivating purchases.

But our research also showed that billboard viewers differentiate between a verbal and nonverbal call to action.

Between the two, our research data indicated that when driving viewers have time to read (as for example, when there's heavy traffic along Guadalupe Edsa or the South Superhighway), the verbal and the non-verbal call to action are equally effective.

However, when viewers have only 3-5 seconds exposure to a billboard because there's smooth and fast moving vehicular traffic, the non-verbal ad is more effective.

As you can see, your Bench billboards have a call to action. But they are not verbal; they are non-verbal.

They call viewers to wear Bench if they want to be like any one of the Bench talents. (Same thing with the Guess? billboards. Guess? incidentally, spends all of its advertising money on billboards.)

Bench and Guess? billboards have a call to action "by identification with a significant or reference person." As suggested by our research, this is, in fact, the superior call to action.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pdltdsl.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

FOR some brands, billboards are effective advertising media

BARON BOWED OUT, WHO'S NEXT?													
ClickTheCity.com													
TONIGHT 9:00PM													
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM
NSN					Telediyaryo	Ting ng Bayan (Live)	Mr. Ben	Naruto	GSIS Member's Hour	Ting ng Bayan (Live)	TV Patrol World	Mya Angeli Na Waring Lang	Itay Ang Lahat Sa Akin
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor				Melchor Gaudin Season 2			Kampanerang Kubo	
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Taping				Brunei Cup				
GMA 7	Kung Mangharin Mo Lang Ako	New and Forwards			Shawin King				Extra Challenge				
RPM 9	TV Shopping				Hay Amok!				WWE Smackdown				
IBC 13					Hay Amok!				The Insider				
SDN 21					Hay Amok!				WWE Smackdown				
Studio 23					Hay Amok!				WWE Smackdown				
MTV Philippines	Pimp My Ride	Rockola	MTV Pop Inc.		Trippin'				WWE Smackdown				
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX				WWE Smackdown				
CNN					Larry King Live				WWE Smackdown				
ESPN									WWE Smackdown				
Sports Plus									WWE Smackdown				
Hallmark Channel	Cover Girl				The Addams Family				WWE Smackdown				
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny		So Little Time				WWE Smackdown				
Discovery Channel									WWE Smackdown				
National Geographic									WWE Smackdown				
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show			Tam & Jerry Show				WWE Smackdown				
Nickelodeon	Blue Clues/What Pined Are You From	Rugrats	Hay Amok!		My Life As A Teenage Robot				WWE Smackdown				
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style		Hollywood Squares				WWE Smackdown				
Star World									WWE Smackdown				
AXN									WWE Smackdown				
JackTV	Family Guy	Sitapornia	The Sib Show		WWE Smackdown				WWE Smackdown				
ETC									WWE Smackdown				
HBO									WWE Smackdown				
Star Movies									WWE Smackdown				
Cinema One									WWE Smackdown				
EWTV	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Angels (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Form	Adventures In Odyssey				WWE Smackdown				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghati ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Turwing Huwebes

Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado

Dito lang sa:



Are you getting the full benefit of your advanced income tax payments?

By Henry M. Tan
and Jim R. Macatingrao
SGV & Co.

WHETHER you like it or not, the withholding tax system requires you to pay a portion of your tax liabilities in advance.

A percentage of your revenues is withheld by your customers in the form of creditable withholding taxes (CWT) that are subsequently remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) as your advance income tax payments.

But are you getting the full benefit of these CWTs? Or are you being assessed and penalized because of them? Surprisingly, most taxpayers find themselves in the latter situation.

More often than not, these taxpayers are being assessed for reducing their income tax payments by claiming the CWT as credits, either without showing

any proof that those taxes were withheld by their customers, or for not claiming them in the period when the corresponding revenue was reported.

Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 2-98, as amended, require the withholding of taxes on income payments to residents, at rates ranging from 1-15 percent.

The Regulations further state that every payor required to deduct and withhold taxes under these regulations shall furnish each payee, whether individual or corporate, with a withholding tax statement, using the prescribed form (BIR Form No. 2307), more commonly known as the Certificate of Creditable Tax Withheld at Source, showing the income payments made and the amount of taxes withheld for every month of the quarter.

What many taxpayers fail to realize is that the CWT Certificate

must be given by their payors within 20 days following the close of the taxable quarter employed by the payee in filing his/its quarterly income tax return.

At the request of the payee, however, the payor must furnish such a statement to the payee together with the income payment.

Obviously, payors are required to furnish their payees with the necessary Certificates of Creditable Tax Withheld at Source so that payees could use the certificates as proof that taxes were indeed withheld, since these entitle them to reduce their income tax payable by the amount of advance income tax payments made.

The CWT Certificates should be attached to the quarterly and annual income tax returns.

Moreover, a schedule summarizing the application of CWT should also be attached as an integral part of the income tax return.

For taxpayers who are filing under the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS), they are required to submit the CWT Certificates to the Revenue District Office (RDO) or Large Taxpayers Service (LTS), Large Taxpayers Assistance Division (LTAD) or Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO) where they are registered within 15 days from the date of e-filing the applicable tax return, pursuant to RR No. 9-01 and Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 05-02.

For one reason or another, perhaps hoping that the CWT Certificates would soon follow, most taxpayers fail to demand or even ask their payors for the necessary

CWT Certificates.

Unfortunately, once the payment is received, the required CWT Certificates are either forgotten or received too late. This situation often forces the taxpayer to claim the CWT even without the corresponding CWT Certificates.

Those taxpayers who opted to wait for the CWT Certificates are forced to report the same in the wrong period. Often, amending the tax returns would be too impractical, especially if it involves few certificates with minimal amounts.

In any case, the implications for not having the certificates of CWT on hand and attached to the tax returns cannot be taken for granted.

In VAT Review Committee Ruling No. 022-2004, dated August 20, 2004, the BIR ruled that CWT Certificates that are issued by

withholding agents only after the filing of the tax returns cannot be applied as tax credits in the subsequent returns. The remedy is to either claim a refund or tax credit, or amend its tax returns to reflect the belatedly received CWT Certificates.

This is not without basis, because Section 2.58.3 of RR No. 2-98 provides that the amount of CWT shall be allowed as a tax credit against the income tax liability of the payee in the quarter of the taxable year in which income was earned or received.

It shall be given due course only when it is shown that the income payment has been declared part of the gross income and the withholding of taxes is proven by a copy of the withholding tax statement (BIR Form No. 2307) duly issued by the payor to the payee showing the amount paid

ARE YOU GETTING/B2-7

TAX-FILES

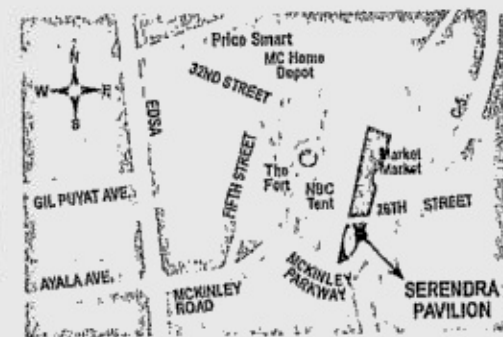
UNCOMPROMISING LOCATION



With Serendra's sprawling greenery located just a few minutes away from the heart of the country's premiere business district, respite from the workday will now always be within easy reach. Family members can now come home fresh and ready for some good old family time. And with the finest schools, hospitals, and shopping malls in the country just a short drive away, Serendra offers a proposition that's just hard to beat. Now, comfort and convenience are no longer mutually exclusive concepts. At Serendra, these two ideas have finally found a home. And hopefully, so will you.

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(Image shown is merely a creative representation, and not an actual depiction of Serendra.)

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Broadband homes make up tomorrow's communities

A RARE GATHERING OF THE COUNTRY'S two leading businesses gathered for a tete-a-tete to reinforce their connections that could lead to further business collaboration and enhanced offerings to consumers.

Held exclusively by Innove Communications Inc and Ayala Land Inc, the event dubbed "Connecting Communities of Tomorrow" exhibited a variety of services offered by

Globelines-broadband, Globe 1, and Worldpass. Ayala land in turn showcased its architectural prowess through the promotion of its malls and residential developments as well as its Oakwood Premier. The event is a celebration of the common principles and visions shared.

Exchanging views on their expertise were Ayala Land chair Fernando

Zobel de Ayala, Innove CEO Gil Genio, Globe Telecom president Gerry Ablaza and Oakwood GM Al Legaspi. Also in attendance were Makati Development Corp president and CEO Emilio Tumbocon, Globe's senior vice president lawyer Rodolfo Salalima, Innove's residential and business group head Ramon Antonio Pineda, and Innove R&B marketing head Jose Antonio Mapa Jr.



FROM left, Innove external communications head Cathy Salceda-Ileto, Innove CAO Racquel Cagurangan,

Globe PR consultant for lifestyle Menchie Cruz, Innove R&B Luzon area sales head Steve Basilla, Innove

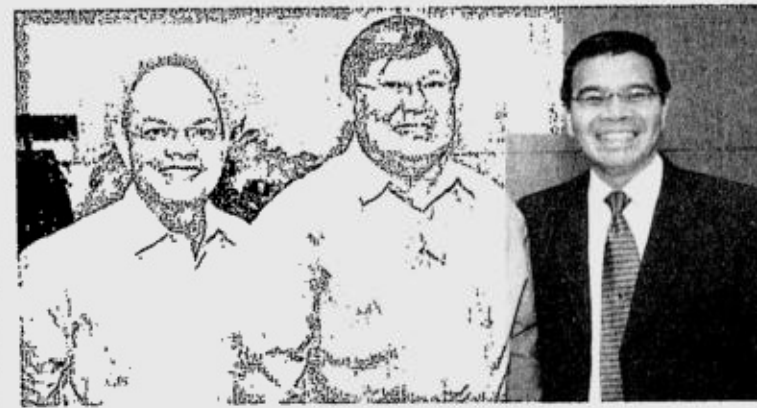
technology solutions head Edna dela Cruz and Innove controller Jessie Alano.



SHOWN, from left, are Innove CEO Gil Genio, Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Oakwood GM Al Legaspi, Ayala Land sales in-

ternational president Jose Rene Almendras and Globe president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr.

FROM left, Innove residential and business group head Ramon Pineda, Makati Development Corp president and CEO Emilio Tumbocon and Globe corporate and regulatory affairs head lawyer Rodolfo Salalima.



NANCY CASTIGLIONE OPENS UNICA HIJA. GAISANO MALL OUTLET

Present during the ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opening Unica Hija Gaisano Mall outlet June 19 were, from left: Jeng and Bong Villon

(franchisor of Unica Hija), Unica Hija endorser Nancy Castiglione, and Ryan and Dianna Yu (franchisee).

Therapharma's brand of losartan turns 1

THERAPHARMA, A UNIT OF UNITED LABORATORIES, recently celebrated the first year of its brand losartan, a medicine for high blood pressure.

Losartan belongs to a new class of antihypertensive medicines called angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). According to Dr. Esperanza Cabral, past president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension, several studies have shown that losartan is effective in lowering blood pressure and helps delay the onset of kidney problems. Compared with other types of blood pressure medicines, losartan has lesser side-effects of cough and rash.

A major advantage of Therapharma's losartan is that it is priced competitively. The 50-mg losartan of Therapharma is about 50 percent less than the cost of the originator brand.

Since its launch last year, Therapharma's losartan has gained a significant share in the market for antihypertensive medicines.

"We at Therapharma never fail to consult the doctors to know what their patients really need," said John Dumpit, the company's general manager. "We dedicate this anniversary celebration to the Filipino patient."

Therapharma is a pharmaceutical company focused on cardiovascular medicines, developing products that are effective, safe and affordable.

High blood pressure is a leading cause of sickness and death in the country. Of those diagnosed with hypertension, only half are taking medicines as prescribed. A more affordable medicine will mean better chances of complying with the daily medication.

This credit card comes with a personal assistant

UNLIKE OTHER CREDIT CARD COMPANIES that are wooing members with electronic gadgets and appliances, American Express is taking the path less taken. Its come-on for its Peso Platinum Card is a 24/7 Platinum Concierge Service.

Patty Pronove-Henson, American Express marketing head, explains that the Amex concierge is "very much like a valet" who does restaurant, hotel and golf reservations. Just like the real thing, the Amex concierge can also buy and deliver gifts, provide access to emergency medical and legal assistance, and a host of other services. Best of all, this concierge is just a phone call away.

Thus far, the service has been making many sit up and take notice, says Grace D. Limjap, card marketing manager. Take the case of a young Filipino executive based in Europe who want-

ed to send flowers to a special girl in Manila. His mother, a Peso Platinum cardmember, was tasked to orchestrate the project. Unmindful of the fact that she lives in Davao City, the mother simply rang up the Platinum Concierge to accomplish the mission and charge everything to her card.

A few days away from the intended delivery date, the swain chucked the flowers in favor of a heart-shaped cake. Mother made the appropriate changes-again simply by calling the Platinum Concierge.

Last Christmas, a businesswoman based outside of Metro Manila likewise discovered the convenience of having a Platinum Concierge. Through the 24/7 hotline, she arranged to have gift sets selected from a plush metropolitan department store, charged to her credit card, and delivered to over 20 friends residing

in Metro Manila.

Limjap adds that the Platinum Concierge services are available to cardmembers when they are traveling across Asia Pacific region (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand), Australia and New Zealand. They can call the hotline even at midnight should they find themselves in an emergency situation, according to Limjap. "They really can be very helpful especially these days when executives are no longer entitled to having personal assistants."

The American Express Platinum Concierge Service for Peso Platinum Cardmembers is available 24/7 within the Philippines and in eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia and New Zealand. For more information, call 814-4777, or visit www.americanexpressbank.com.ph.

Miracle food from the 'tree of life'

PEOPLE GENERALLY THINK FAT IS bad for the body and health. Oily and greasy foods are generally regarded as "junk food". Most people believe that all saturated fats contribute to heart disease.

Over recent years, however, coconut oil has been making waves in the health industry because, contrary to popular belief, coconut oil is indeed healthy for the body. Numerous studies have shown that its medium chain fatty acids (MCFAs) provide restorative and preventive properties.

Mt. Mayon Living Products is proud to introduce Laureate Virgin

Coconut Oil. This coconut oil is unique because it is freshly harvested from the coconut plantations grown at the foot of Mt. Mayon. The soil has become nutrient-rich due to past eruptions, making Laureate Virgin Coconut Oil healthy for everyone.

Laureate Virgin Coconut Oil is produced using the "cold process", locking in the health-giving nutrients of coconut oil that high heat destroys. It is packed in its purest form and 100-percent natural-no preservatives, unrefined, unbleached and non-deodorized. Use Laureate Virgin Coconut Oil for cooking, baking and for salad dressing. Laureate Virgin Coconut Oil

can also be applied on the skin and hair, making it soft and supple. It is known to be an anti-oxidant and reduces the risk of heart diseases, most cancers, and other degenerative conditions. It boosts the immune system. Laureate Virgin Coconut oil also increases metabolism, making it the "low-fat" fat. Truly a miracle food from the "tree of life!"

For a healthier lifestyle, try Laureate Virgin Coconut Oil today. For sales information, inquire at Mt. Mayon Living Products at 127 Pablo Roman, BF Executive Village, Las Piñas City, or call 802-0538 or Clemence Reyes at (052)486-6588 or 0910-3684762.

UST stroke summit October 6

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL, Department of Neurology and Psychiatry is organizing the First Neurovascular Summit to be held on Oct. 6 and 7 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines.

The conference aims to update physicians on current concepts and recent advances in the field of cerebrovascular diseases. A series of lectures dealing with the basic neurosciences, aspects of neurovascular epidemiology, and trends in the management of cerebrovascular diseases have been slated for the two-day conference. It is the hope of the organizers that participants will be enlightened by talks to be given by the speakers, both foreign and local, all of whom are known authorities in the field.

The Neurovascular Summit is open to all physicians who wish to be updated and educated on the neurovascular diseases. Interested parties are welcome to register and participate. With the summit, the UST Department of Neurology and Psychiatry aims to expand the awareness of physicians and paramedical personnel about stroke and related illnesses.

The Neurovascular Summit is open to all physicians who wish to be updated and educated on the neurovascular diseases. Interested parties are welcome to register and participate. With the summit, the UST Department of Neurology and Psychiatry aims to expand the awareness of physicians and paramedical personnel about stroke and related illnesses.

CHARMEE AND SARAH - GOING GREAT TOGETHER!

The partnership between Charmee Feminine Protection Products and teen singing sensation Sarah Geronimo is going places! Acclaimed for her powerful voice, Sarah has wowed audiences of all ages with her simplicity, the quality of her work and versatility-qualities that she shares with Charmee Feminine Protection products. Join Charmee in Sarah's concert on Sep. 30 at the Araneta Coliseum and on Oct. 15 at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel. Get the chance to watch Sarah live and get goodies from Charmee Feminine Protection Products. Charmee Feminine Wipes are now available in leading Supermarkets and Drug-stores Nationwide for only P19.50 for a pack of 10 pulls. For your monthly period, try Charmee All Flow Pack, only P18 for the 8-pack.

ProductFiles

A new spice of your life

GOOD FOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN at the heart of Thai culture, along with sharing delicious meals with others. This was the inspiration behind Thai-Thai, truly authentic, ready-to-eat Thai cuisine.

Thai cookery, in fact, is a combination of culinary art and science. Traditionally, ingredients aren't selected just for their flavor, but also as herbal remedies. So, with Thai-Thai, you can be sure what you're eating is healthy as well as tasty.

All Thai-Thai products are made under the strictest hygienic conditions using the latest food processing technology. Once the ingredients have been carefully selected, every

stage that follows is closely monitored using advanced online quality assurance systems.

Thai-Thai is so convenient when you want to enjoy a delicious meal quickly. Just pop the dishes into a microwave set on high, wait until they're thoroughly hot, and serve. Thai-Thai's range of fast and easy-to-prepare dishes include Tom

Yum Kung, Chicken Red Curry, Stir-Fried Chicken with Basil, Sweet and Sour Shrimp, Chicken Green Curry, Shrimp Red Curry, Pad Thai King, and Sweet and Sour Fish. Thai-Thai is manufactured by CP Merchandising Co Ltd in Bangkok, Thailand. To know more about Thai-Thai, e-mail thai-thai@cpf.co.th.



Walkman gets makeover

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SONY Corp. of Japan, one of the world's most venerable brands, was responsible for adding Walkman to the English vocabulary.

Indeed, for much of the last few decades, Sony's Walkman had a stranglehold on the portable music player market.

Walkman lovers worldwide ran or walked around with cassette tapes loaded on their players, and a few years later, compact discs.

For a while there, it seemed that Sony's hold on the market would never loosen.

Then came one of the biggest missteps in its long corporate history—it failed to see the digital music wave coming and inevitably got swept in the under-tow.

Sony's loss is US-based Apple Corp.'s gain. Riding high on digital music, its iPod has become the standard by which all digital music players are measured.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Sony, however, is aggressively making up for lost ground in all markets, including the Philippines, by offering its own version of digital music players.

Conceding that digital is the format of the present and the future, Sony has developed a line of players to match all variants of the iPod or other players in the market, such as Creative and iRiver with the expected promise that theirs are better.

With Apple's iPod lordling it over the digital music player market in the Philippines, it will take a lot of genius and resources to shake its throne, even for a Sony.

Twinkle Nava-Rafael, Sony product manager for the personal audio-video category, however, tells Business Friday that Sony here has come up with a program to regain lost leadership in the market, and efforts are centered on getting the market to know that Sony may be trailing, but is still very much in the race.

Feature-packed products

Sony is banking on its extensive distribution network covering the entire Philippines to boost awareness of its new product line.

This will go hand-in-hand with a full blown advertising campaign on radio, television and print to pique the market's interest in its new products under the name Network Walkman.

She adds that Sony also plans to hold events and product demonstrations to get people to experience firsthand the difference of the Sony Network Walkman sound.

Once people hear and see that difference, Sony is confident that the products will sell themselves.

"Our advantage is in the features," she says.

The entry level Sony NW-E100 series is available in 256 MB and 512 MB models. The round device that can be operated using just one hand can play 50 percent more songs as to the comparable players of other companies because of Sony's proprietary ATRAC3plus audio compression technology.

Rafael says that with the ATRAC3plus system that combines high capacity with high sound quality, the 512 model can play 345 songs for a 512 MB model compared with about 100-120 songs for other models.

Another selling point, she says, is the longer battery life of the Sony line and the quick charging time.

The NE-E500 series available in 256 MB

and 512 MB models features Sony's super high speed charge function, where a mere three-minute recharge is enough to power the unit for three more hours.

The series also comes with an FM tuner and an electronic display that adds to its 3D look and appeal.

Some models likewise come with an FM AM receiver and a removable battery, features that the iPod does not have.

The top of the line NW-HD5, on the other hand, has a capacity of 20 GB and can carry up to 13,000 ATRAC3Plus digital audio tracks compared to just 5,000 for the comparative model.

The Network Walkman series models are more expensive than the comparative models but Rafael is confident that the market will be willing to pay the extra amount.

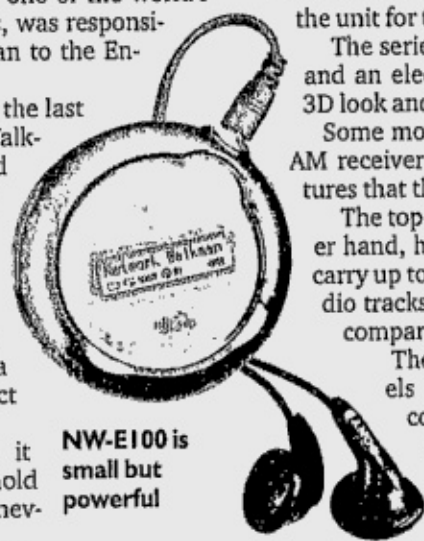
"Sony commands a premi-

um because of the features that we put in the devices," she explains.

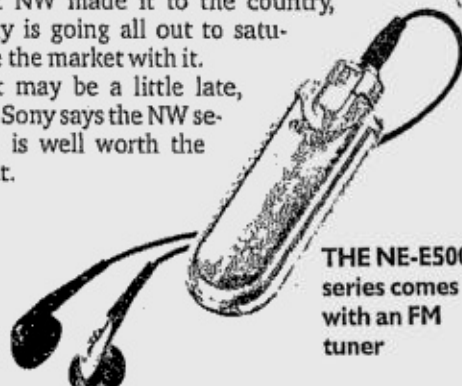
Thus, the Network Walkman series have been well received in other markets, particularly in the home country of Japan.

She says it took a while for this generation of digital players to come to the Philippines because of demand abroad. But now that NW made it to the country, Sony is going all out to saturate the market with it.

It may be a little late, but Sony says the NW series is well worth the wait.



NW-E100 is small but powerful



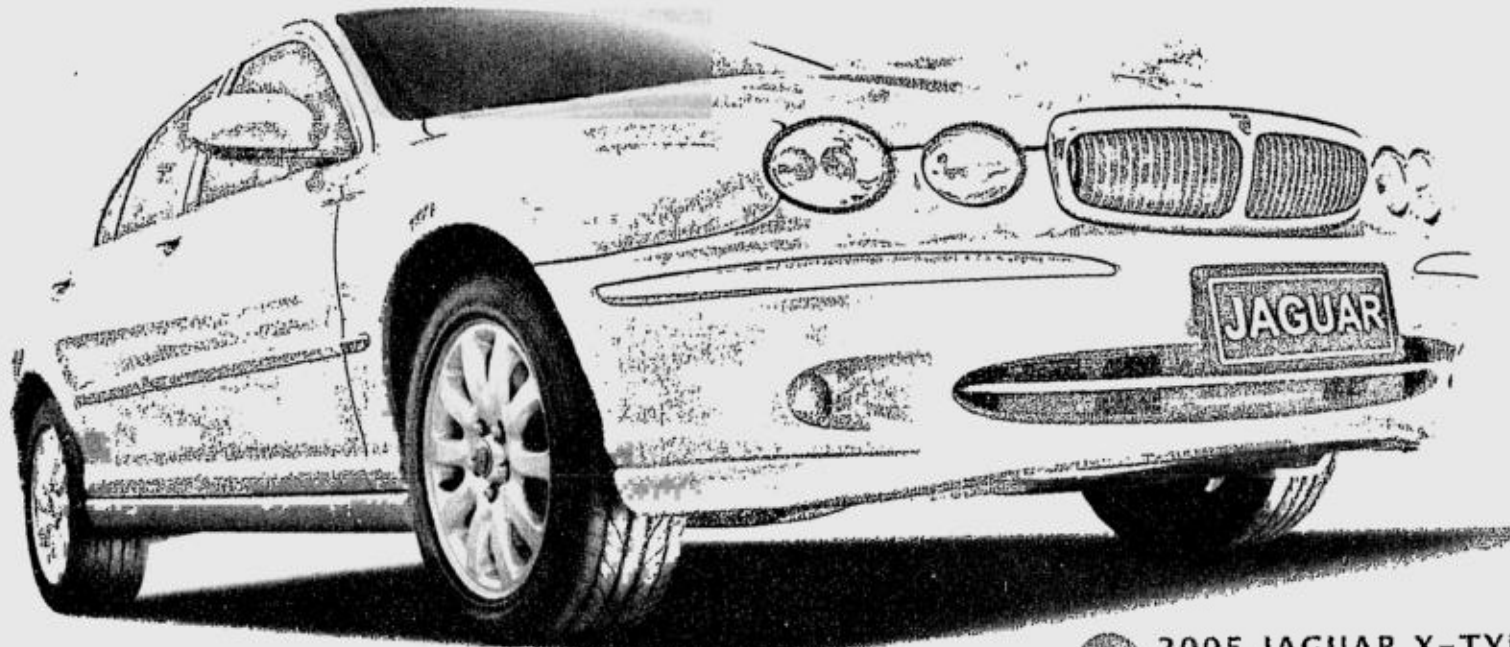
THE NE-E500 series comes with an FM tuner



NW-HD5 can play 13,000 songs

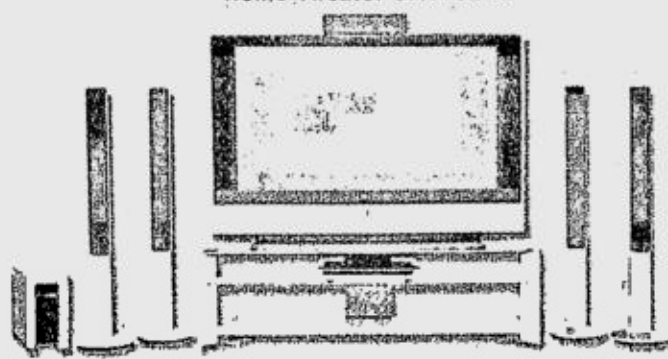
PHILIP MORRIS 100's

WIN A COOL CAT



1 2005 JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 V6 CLASSIC

3 SONY Grand Wega 50" KF-WE50A1 Home Theater DAV-SR4W



10 SONY Digital Camcorder DCR-DVD803



15 SONY ERICSSON S700i



30 SONY Cyber-shot DSC-T7



50 APPLE iPod Photo 30GB



TO JOIN: WRITE YOUR NAME, AGE (AS OF AUGUST 1, 2005) ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND SIGNATURE ON AN EMPTY PACK OF PHILIP MORRIS 100's AND DROP IN DROPBOXES OR MAIL TO:

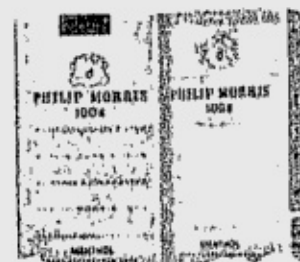
'PHILIP MORRIS 100's "WIN A COOL CAT" C/O PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING INC. MCC P.O. BOX 2338, 1299 MAKATI CITY

PROMO OFFER OPEN ONLY TO SMOKERS 18 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE WHO ARE PHILIPPINE RESIDENTS AND LIVING IN LUZON (EXCLUDING BICOL) AND VISAYAS.

PROMO PERIOD IS FROM AUGUST 1 TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2005, DRAW DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2005

SEE FLYERS FOR MORE DETAILS.

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.



* PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL UNIT
Per DOH-BFAD No. 0732 Series of 2005.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Bulacan . . .

From page B2-B

by Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries vice president Dr. Raul Hernandez, former president of the World Packaging Corp.

The BPSTPC shall be a venue for DOST-sponsored training seminars for packaging.

It will also supply packaging materials and provide services such as label design, toll packaging for tropical fruit, juice/water in stand-up pouch and bottles, vacuum packaging, and single-serve pouch packaging.

All materials and services shall be charged at a "social cost" for Bulacan MSMEs.

The BPSTPC shall also be open to entrepreneurs from nearby provinces after operations transcend the transition period.

In 2004, to generate more jobs and income for Bulakeños, another 24 products were identified for development.

In the list are *atsarang dampalit*, *atsarang ampalaya*, *atsarang papaya*, sweet macapuno, sweet *langka*, sweet garbanzos, vinegar nectar, *chicharon*, tomato jam, *bagoong alamang*, *bagoong isda*, *tinapang tilapia*, catfish fillet, *lengua de gato*, *polvoron de pinipig*, chocolate drink, native *kakanin* and *pinipig de leche*, cassava cake, *sukang Bulacan*, fruit juice drink, *tahong* chips, honey bee products, bottled sardines, and *pandesal de Baliuag*.

"Bulacan will never run out of products to develop because the Bulakeños are innately skilled, creative and entrepreneurial," de la Cruz said. With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

People, Events & Products

RP celebrates National Day at World Expo 2005

TOURISM SECRETARY JOSEPH ACE H. Durano will lead the country's delegation to Aichi, Japan for the Philippines' National Day celebration at the World Expo 2005.

According to Durano, the celebration will be a four-day festivity from Sep. 19 to 22 showcasing the Philippines' cultural diversity and rich, colorful traditions in songs, dances and music, with a gala performance on Sep. 20 at the 3,000-capacity Expo Dome within the expo site.

"The Philippine National Day performances were produced specially for the World Expo by the Cultural Center of the Philippines with veteran stage director Monino Duque and a production cast of 160 performing artists from all over the Philippines," Durano said.

The Sep. 20 gala performance will have an all-star cast who will combine different genres in a surprising and dazzling one-hour cultural extravaganza.

The cast will include vocalists Johnson Uy and Rachel Gerodias, Ballet Philippines, Philippine Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Sining Kumintang ng Batangas, Streetboys, Tanghalang Pilipino, and the prize-winning Yag-yag Festival Dancers

from Negros Oriental, all gracefully interpreting traditional and contemporary works before a dominantly Japanese audience.

The delegation will include Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon, Philippine Commissioner General for World Expo 2005 and Team Japan Head Rosvi C. Gaetos of the Department of Tourism (DOT), General Manager Robert Dean Barbers of the Philippine Tourism Authority, Director Patria Aurora Roa of DOT Region VI, and delegations from Bohol and Negros Oriental led by Governors Erico Aumentado and Jorge P. Arnaiz, respectively.

Philippine Airlines, major sponsor of the Philippine participation in the World Expo, will be represented by its president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista and regional head for East Asia Genaro Velasquez.

The Philippine National Day celebrations will be graced by Japanese government and expo officials led by chair Shoichiro Toyoda of the Japan Association for the World Expo 2005 and the Toyota Motor Corp, and World Expo Commissioner General and Ambassador Taizo Watanabe.

Joining them in welcoming the Philippine delegation will be the gov-

ernor of Aichi province and the mayor of Nagoya City. The Aichi governor will host at the Nagoya Marriott Hotel a welcome dinner reception that will cap the Sep. 20 celebrations.

Mayor Katsuyuki Nakano of Toyokawa City, the Friendship City of the Philippines in the World Expo, will lead a 500-man delegation to the Philippine National Day celebrations at the Expo Dome.

After the celebration, Durano and his delegation will proceed to Tokyo for the Sep. 21 to 24 World Congress and World Travel Fair of the Japanese Association of Travel Agents. Durano is hopeful that Japanese arrivals to the Philippines will continue to grow as a result of the highly successful Philippine participation in the World Expo, which has tremendously helped improve the country's profile and image among the Japanese.

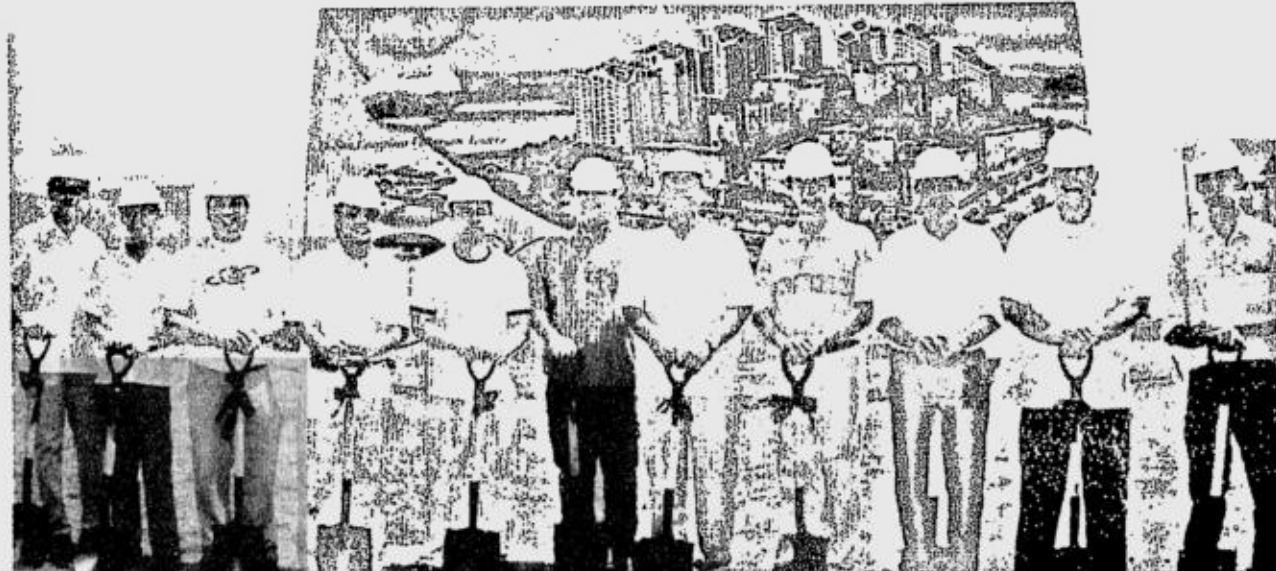
Durano also announced the start of preparations for the celebration of the Philippine-Japan Friendship Year next year involving a host of high-profile promotional activities all over Japan, all aimed at capturing a bigger share of the projected Japanese outbound market of some 17.4 million this year and up to 20 million by 2010.



TUPPERWARE'S BANTAY BATA DONATIONS EXCEED P1M

Tupperware Philippines, whose parent company US-based Tupperware Corp has recently been cited as one of the most socially responsible companies in the world, recently turned over some P160,000 worth of Tupperware products to Bantay Bata 163 Foundation. On its third year, Tupperware's contributions have reached more than a million pesos in support to the less privileged youths of society.

Shown from left are Tupperware product supervisor Catherine Sioson, program director of Bantay Bata Tina Monzon-Palma, Tupperware national sales director Yvette A. Navarro, and ABS-CBN Foundation senior external affairs officer Marianita Torres. For more information on Tupperware products and business opportunity, see your nearest distributor, text 0917-813-TUPP, or call 845-4798.



CROWN ASIA HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING OF PRESIDIO'S 1ST TOWER

A pioneer in prime residential communities, Crown Asia recently held the groundbreaking for Presidio's first tower, Da Vinci. A 6.8-hectare 'city by the bay', Presidio at Brittany Bay features 16 towers interplaying in height and size to accommodate a mixture of residential and commercial units. Located at the boundary of Sucat and Taguig, Presidio offers a splendid

view of Laguna de Bay and Sierra Madre Mountains. Present during Da Vinci's groundbreaking ceremony were Crown Asia's officials and partners, from left, Peter Estanislao, Red Rosales, architect Carmelo Casas, Paolo Villar, Tito delos Angeles, Jerry Navarrete, Bobbie Caballero, Boyet Evangelista, Angel del Rosario, and Rex Bernal.



FAI TOPS OFF WEST PARC'S ALDER BUILDING

Filinvest Alabang Inc (FAI) recently held the topping off of West Parc's Alder building, the first building of the two-phase, West Parc Condominiums project of FAI. At the ceremony were (from left), Johnny Tan, CE Construction Corp (Cecon) president; architect Erlinda Tan, FAI first vice president; Michael Gotlanun, FAI vice president; Jaime Fresneda, Muntinlupa City Mayor; lawyer Efrén Gutierrez, FAI presi-

dent; architect Roger Villarosa, R. Villarosa Architects president; and architect Oscar Salvacion, Design Coordinates Inc (DCI) president. West Parc is located at the West Gate complex of the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. Muntinlupa and targets first-time condo unit buyers in the mid-range market within the southern Metro Manila-Cavite-Laguna-Batangas areas.

Sun Cellular's affordable, user-friendly video streaming, downloading services

SUN CELLULAR SUBSCRIBERS CAN NOW watch the latest video clips through their handsets anytime, anywhere with VideoWorld, a service that enables postpaid and prepaid subscribers to view and download an array of video clips ranging from sports and fashion to the latest local and world news and entertainment.

VideoWorld offers video streaming for subscribers who want to watch video clips without having to save it on their mobile phones, and video downloading, for subscribers whose handsets are capable of retaining large volumes of memory.

VideoWorld lets you access various quality video categories from Sun Cellular's international content partners. These enhanced content delivery services from Sun can be enjoyed

for as low as P15 per stream and P20 per download. All you need is a handset with a video player/streaming capability, which is configured for WAP over Sun's GPRS.

Once you've activated Sun's GPRS by simply texting "Activate" to 2300, then you're ready to experience hassle-free video streaming or downloading.

Just access the WAP services from your handset's menu, select Home for Sun Wapsite to appear, click VideoWorld, choose from the video categories, click on the desired clip, and you're ready to view or download!

The network will be expanding its video portfolio that will include highly interesting content from individuals and corporations that would want to share their respective video collection.



POWER MEMORY WALTER MART MAKATI OPENS

Lawyer Abigail Binay (3rd from right) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Power Memory Walter Mart Makati. Joining her are (from left) Eduardo Pilapil Jr, chair of Power Memory Franchising Inc, Alex Empedrad, operations director of Vytal Marketing, the Power Memory Philippine master franchisee, and Ed de Leon, general manager of

Walter Mart. In the background are Bennie Fortuno, Roselle Pantastico, and Dennis Pantastico of SmartMinds Specialists Inc, Power Memory's Makati franchisee. Power Memory is a breakthrough learning system for students (Grade 2 onwards), Board/Bar reviewers, and professionals.



FAT CHOI RESTAURANT OPENS

Terri Choi, Fat Choi restaurant franchisor, Marikina Mayor Maredes Fernando, Agnes Javier, owner and manager of Fat Choi Restaurant, and Emil Javier, general manager and owner of Fat Choi

Restaurant, cut the ribbon during the recent opening of Fat Choi Restaurant at Blue Wave and Marquinton Place in Marikina. Located at the ground floor, the Chinese restaurant opens daily.

Burlington's 'School Cash Reward' raffle draw winners

BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES PHILIPPINES Inc, makers of Burlington, Puma, Bally, Slazenger, Camp and Baleno socks, recently held the raffle draw of its "School Cash Reward" sales promotions at its Makati office.

Drawn as winners of P30,000 cash each in the presence of a DTI representative were Jose Alderman Basco, Jaime Co, Rebecca Suico, Sally Diones, Helen Renoble, Nerisase Dalida, Sofia Rafuls, Marichu Villaraja, Fe

Ocana and Marlyn Trozo.

Other winners were Jeanielyn Benig, Rose Melgar, Shellane Ticzon, Achilles Macaro, Loule Espaldon, Tessie Asenjo, Vernice Diamante, Evan Eclim, Lester Sasil and Serafin Villa Jr who won P20,000 cash each and Daryl Yang, Danielle Sebastian, Ralph Lincoln Dela Cruz, Judivi Avila, Nathaniel Alba, Ailyn Cornero, Marichu Tia, Sheryl Traverro Lagan, Corazon Villoria and Jammae Lee Abadiano who got P10,000 cash each.



Red Bull light: low calorie, less sugar

ENERGY FOOD AND DRINKS INC, exclusive distributors of Red Bull Supreme Energy Drink in the Philippines, recently announced the introduction of New Red Bull Light, the low calorie, less sugar variant of the market-leading energy drink that has taken the country by storm.

Red Bull Light has less sugar than Red Bull Supreme to make it an ideal energy

drink for the health and figure conscious segment of the market. However, although it has less sugar and far lower calories, Red Bull Light packs the same 100-percent energy boosting power as Red Bull Supreme.

Red Bull Light is available in groceries, convenience stores, supermarkets, drug stores and gasoline stations nationwide.



Internet café chain goes mobile

By Senen Bravo

NETOPIA dominates the Internet café business, but it continues to raise the bar.

Last year, it deployed the Mobile Internet Café in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. It branched out to Bangkok, then put up Extreme Gaming Grounds in Greenhills.

"We really wanted to corner more markets, and leave the others in our wake," says Jito Grau, Netopia vice president for franchise and operations.

MIC, a P1.5-million venture, is a 40-foot long van designed to house 16 computers on wireless technology. Meridian, a subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., built the infrastructure. The vans will also be deployed to Cebu, Bohol and other areas in the Visayas.

"The MIC identifies market for Netopia cafes," says Grau.

Because of positive feedback, Netopia soon established three Internet cafes in Dumaguete.

"Our gauge of success is one computer yielding more than P100 a day. The good thing about the MIC venture in Dumaguete was that our first month was equivalent to a three-month performance," says Grau.

The cafes, he says, follow municipal regulations.

"Minors and students can only come in after school hours," says Grau.

Grau and other Netopia execs likewise decided to test the waters in Bangkok, putting up three minority-owned branches.

"Bangkok has no dominant player in Internet café and the proximity is just too right," Grau says.

Gamers, he says, are hooked on football and soccer games which account for 60 percent of operations.

At EGG Greenhills, players face each other in an arena-type play room with Plasma screens. All 60 terminals are Intel Pentium 4 Extreme Edition PCs with Hyper-Threading Technology.

"This venture is really for the high-end market, those willing to pay that much for the thrill and cutting-edge technology," says Grau.

An I-Lounge, equipped with a 5.1 channel



ENJOY Counter Strike at Netopia's main deck.

speaker system and a 42-inch Plasma screens, offers the best of Xbox and PS2 games.

Six more centers will open within the year.

Netopia also has suppliers Electroworld, Blas Edwards, Villman, Silicon Valley and software providers Microsoft and Adobeto to sharpen its edge.

These new branches are just part of Grau's responsibilities.

Also under his care are Netopia's 172 branches and 8,700 workstations across the country. Netopia plans to expand at an aggressive rate of four to five branches a month.

He also aids single unit franchises with training (operational and technical) and day-to-day support like marketing programs. The franchising fee is between P2.5 and P3.5 million with a minimum of 30 computers a branch.

Grau himself used to be a franchisee.

Grau started off at a Monterey subsidiary as branch supervisor. After a year, he was handling 12 branches and supermarket operations and franchising.

In 1998, he heard about Netopia and convinced three of his friends to pool funds to set up a franchise at SM Sucat. The stall was powered by Asus motherboards, Intel processors,

AOC monitors (17 inches) and 10gb hard disks.

Gamers enjoyed Counter Strike, Warcraft and Doom games at the main deck, while Internet users surfed at an enclosed quiet room.

In 2000, Grau handled Netopia's franchising in which he selects sites and holds demographic studies.

Netopia, says Grau, has always been about taking risks.

"Our first franchise at SM Bacoor fizzled out because of theft and poor location," says Grau.

Netopia's history is anchored on two key persons: consultant Axel Komerup, a computer enthusiast who founded Netopia in 1996 and established the company's first eight workstations; Raymond Ricafort, president/CEO, who established the Netopia branch network and enlisted the support of ePLDT and Newnet Holdings Inc., which infused P30 million in 2000.

Netopia is now 69-percent owned by PLDT.

Netopia took bigger steps since then.

Netopia, for instance, took the lead in digital revolution by scrapping dial-up connection in favor of PLDT's high-speed broadband connection.

On Netopia's drawing board is the refurbishing of branches.

In July 2004, the Netopia Internet cafe at Park Square was remodeled and hosted the first VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) technology. Other branches soon followed.

Grau says these changes are just part of Netopia's aim to expand its reach and help democratize Internet access and improve Filipinos' computer literacy.



EGG players can take their game to new heights in an arena setup.

RP firms need to get dose

From page B2-1

among several options is practical and beneficial for you.

Which one to get

Look at the new technology as an investment rather than as an expense. Study your business plan. (In case you don't have it, start making it now!)

Ask yourself: How much of your products must be sold for you to recover the costs of buying the new technology? How are your people going to receive such a change in your business? Do you need to train them? How will the technology affect your finances?

Perhaps you need financing. The DOST Grant-in-Aid or Venture Financing Program is available to qualified SMEs to cover the cost of acquisition and fabrication of critical production equipment and working capital.

How to get it

There are two ways to get the technology: you either develop it in-house or get it from others. You have to decide which one you are going to follow. An in-house development may be expensive and risky, but it is your own—developed to your own specific needs and may give you a decided advantage over the competition. Some companies will acquire technology both ways—internally and externally.

If you choose to buy technology from others, you have to consider legal aspects in technology transfer. Here you need to negotiate the terms of agreement, which will cover, among others, import restrictions in case of a transfer between two countries.

In case you are considering buying technology from a foreign country, you may want to consult technology transfer agents first.

It is advisable to consult these intermediaries in cases of technology transfer between two countries because these agents have wide-ranging contacts and vast experience in searching out potential partners quickly and efficiently. Plus, their mediation doesn't stop even after the transfer deal is done since they also

provide support services to their clients.

In case you don't have a technology transfer agent in mind, the Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology may be of help.

Launching it

The last step in the technology transfer process is launching. Here you prepare your company for the transfer of the technology or for possible changes that may occur in the process. You need to plan where the new machine or equipment will be located in your company premises.

In most cases, the new equipment will have to be customized to suit your system. It is seldom that a new technology will completely fit into your existing processes. You may then seek the advice of an outside consultant or that of the technology provider in the installation of the new machines.

If the new technology or process is to cut in production time, you may need to modify your production schedule and the work shifts of your workers.

What will be the implications on power consumption and salaries of your employees? Do you need to hire additional workers who will exclusively operate the new machines or will you just allow your present workers to work overtime?

You may also need to orient and train your people in using the new technology. Usually, training is packaged with a transferred technology.

Lastly, you may want to pilot-test the new machine before attempting mass production. In case of a new product acquired from a technology transfer, you may want to test it first among your workers or some pilot groups before finally introducing it to the market. If all is well, then it is time to launch the new technology. Congratulations!

No choice...ultimately

Sometimes, SMEs are in a dilemma

concerning technology. But in reality, there is really no choice.

The creation or absorption of a new technology has become vital for companies to improve or maintain their competitive edge.

The ongoing integration of domestic and international markets has enhanced competitive pressure on all businesses, and especially increased the technological needs of SMEs worldwide, while also improving their access to new technologies and capital goods.

For more info:

1. Department of Science and Technology Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program. <http://setup.dost.gov.ph/>

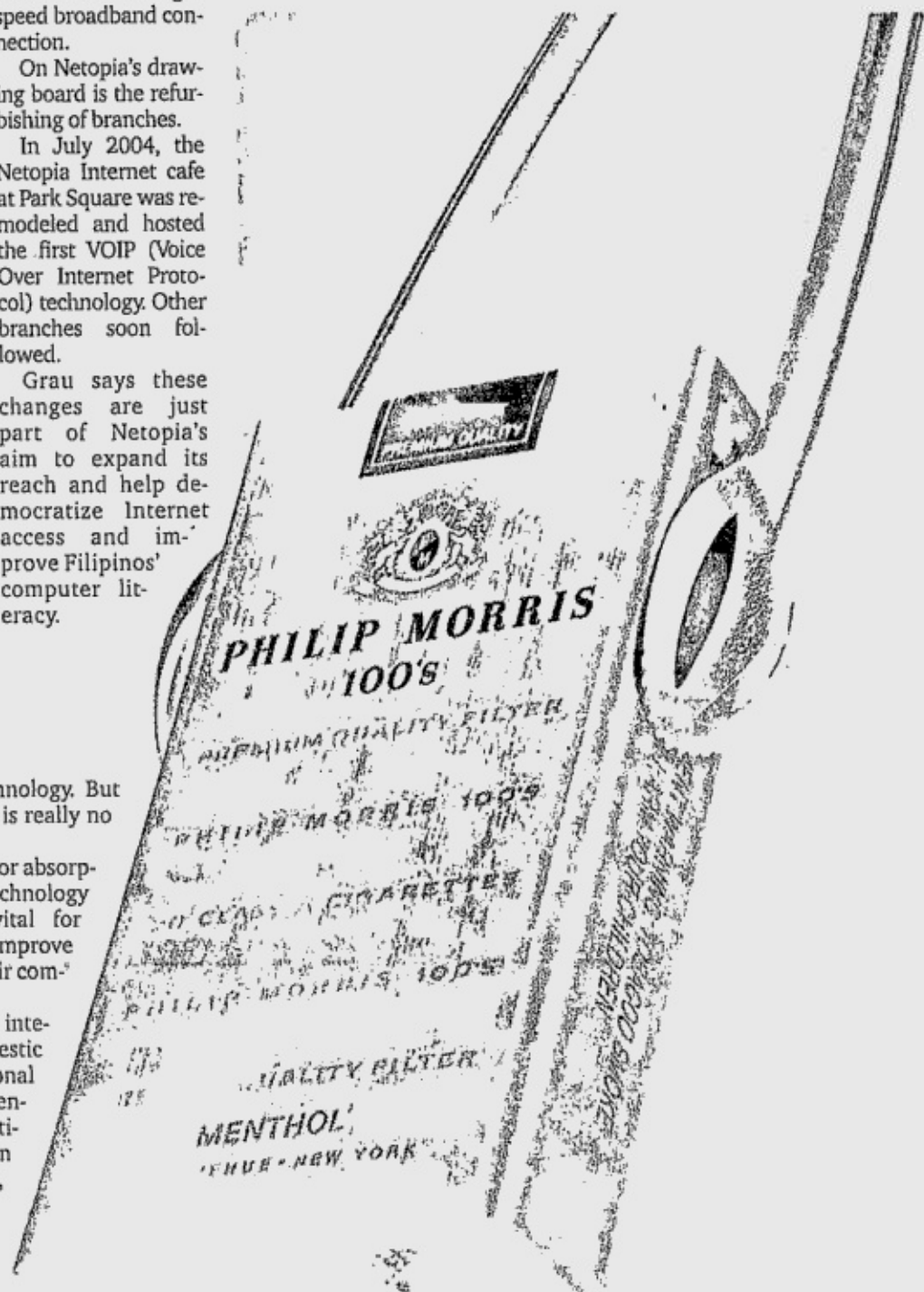
2. University of the Philippines System. <http://www.up.edu.ph>

3. APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for SMEs. <http://www.actetsme.org/techopps.html>

4. Department of Trade and Industry. <http://www.dti.gov.ph/>

5. Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology. <http://www.apctt.org/>

(The University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries offers technology-related training programs for SMEs. From Sept. 1 to Oct. 3, 2005, it will hold the 41st Programmable Logic Controller Course. The program aims to train the participants in identifying areas for application of programmable logic controllers in their respective industry operations; and choose, design and implement the necessary software and hardware systems. For more information on this program, contact Jeff Sumalabe at 9287076 to 79 or fax at 9206923.)



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From page B2-3

and the amount of tax withheld.

The ruling also held that there cannot be a carry-over of CWT that have obviously not been credited in any given taxable year.

While a taxpayer has every right to benefit from the advance tax payments made, the interest of the government is, however, best served if the taxpayers show proof of such withholding.

The taxpayer is not left without a choice. He has all the right to demand the necessary CWT Certificates from the withholding agent.

It might also be helpful if the taxpayer reminds his customers that failure to issue the CWT Certificates may result in mandatory audit of his income tax liabilities, including withholding tax, upon verified complaint of the buyer-payor, pursuant to Section 5 of RR No. 30-03.

The BIR has been strictly enforcing compliance with the foregoing procedural requirements.

With this, you must bear in mind that by the time you file your quarterly and annual income tax return, you should have received the CWT Certificates for the period to reflect the advance tax payments.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
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BUSINESS Friday

Bulacan delicacies invade US shores

CITY OF MALOLOS—The famous delicacies of Bulacan are headed for foreign shores where Filipinos are craving for a taste of home and Americans are looking for something new.

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said these delicacies and handicraft would be marketed under the label "Tatak Bulakenyo" and would be showcased during a two-day trade fair in the United States on Sept. 17-18.

The featured products comprise the pride of Bulacan: the bakery products *ensaymada* and *inipit* of Malolos and *minasa* of Bustos; *pastillas* (sweets) of San Miguel; *buro de Baliuag*; *chicharon* (pork crackling) of Baliuag, San Miguel and Sta. Maria; *boneless bangus* (milk-fish) of Balagtas and *tinapang* (smoked) bangus of Hagonoy.

Pride of Bulacan

Also featured are the *longganisa* (native sausage) of Calumpit; *tsokolate* (native chocolate) of Sta. Maria; *sukang Paombong* (Paombong vinegar); coffee of Doña Remedios Trinidad; and dried and preserved fruits and fresh juices.

De la Cruz said the fair would also feature lanterns from Bocaue and leather and jewelry items from Meycauayan in the "Pistang Bulacan" fair at the Hilton Paradise Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

She said Bulacan was pushing these native products as the province celebrates Bulacan Week this month.

She said among the most sought after Bulacan products of Filipinos abroad are the *inipit* and *ensaymada* of Malolos.

GOVERNMENT officials inspect province's prized export products



TOWN rallies behind Tatak Bulakenyo products.

Inipit is a finger-sized mamon (fluffy cake) with milk, egg, butter and lemon filling.

The Barasoain Sweets, one of the popular makers of this delicacy and the leading pastry and cake store in Bulacan, sells the single layer *inipit* for P70 and the two-layer variety for P150.

Another producer of the *inipit* is the Eurobake Bakeshop, owned by one of the children of the original *inipit* makers from the La Concepcion bakeshop.

De la Cruz said the key to making the "probinsyano" micro-entrepreneur adopt a professional business approach was instilling in them a sense of pride.

The Tatak Bulakenyo seal will take care of that, she said.

Launched in 2003, Tatak Bulakenyo is an effort to generate market opportunities and livelihood for the province's micro,

small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by enhancing the quality of local products.

Authentic Bulacan products with the special Tatak Bulakenyo seal is an imprimatur given to products that are ready for both the local and international markets.

Priority products

Initially, seven priority products had been identified for product development under the Tatak Bulakenyo seal—*pastillas* de leche, *minasa*, *inipit*, *ensay-*

mada, *longganisang* Calumpit, *tinapang* bangus, and *kapeng* Tagalog.

These products have crossed the threshold of the nationwide market and can now enter the world market," De la Cruz said.

"There is a demand for them as the country's major exports are now processed foods."

But it was a long, steady rally toward today's export-quality Tatak Bulakenyo products. Measures had to be taken to revolutionize Bulacan's local MSMEs and their products.

"We wanted our entrepreneurs to adopt a professional approach," De la Cruz said. To achieve this, the province maximized its resources through the Provincial Cooperative and Economic Development Office (PCE-DO), and the expertise of different partner agencies.

PCEDO has initiated a livelihood program, *Kasulong sa Kabuhayan*, which has granted some P5.8 million in loans to 79 MSMEs and 34 potential entrepreneurs.

Help for entrepreneurs

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) provides assistance to MSMEs in the form of marketing, product development, financial brokering, technology upgrading, institutional development, human relations development, and database buildup.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) assists entrepreneurs in product licensing, while the DOST provides product analysis services and packaging development.

The Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) also assists member entrepreneurs in business development and promotions, inter-agency coordination, businessmen education and membership development, as well as consultancy services.

With the help of the partner agencies, the produce of local entrepreneurs enrolled in the product development program now benefit with a greater public appeal and a longer shelf life due to higher quality control standards and cutting edge packaging design.

PCEDO also boosts the products' marketability through promotions and trade fairs.

Steady progress

Today, Bulacan has the highest number of industry associations in the region. It boasts of 34,933 business name registrations, comprising a 30.37-percent share in the region.

MSMEs generate P29 billion a year, contributing 11.86 percent to the region's gross income.

Bulacan's MSMEs have also provided 190,156 jobs for its locals (Bulacan PCEDO).

Packaging center

Also in the pipeline is the multi-million, 560 sq.m. Bulacan Packaging Service and Toll Packaging Center (BPSTPC), under construction at the former Ecology Center site in Malolos.

"The packaging center is really a milestone for our product development endeavors under the Tatak Bulakenyo label," De la Cruz disclosed. "It will complement our livelihood programs for the Bulakeños, and in the long run, it is expected to increase income generation among the micro, small and medium enterprises."

The BPSTPC will initially be operated by the provincial government, BCCI and the Bulacan State University.

Packaging technology, technical support and supervision will be provided by the Packaging Research and Development Center (PRDC) and DOST Region 3.

The packaging center was conceptualized through the support of the private sector headed

BULACAN/B2-5

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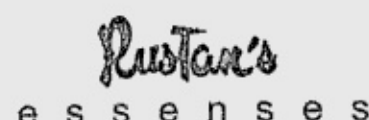
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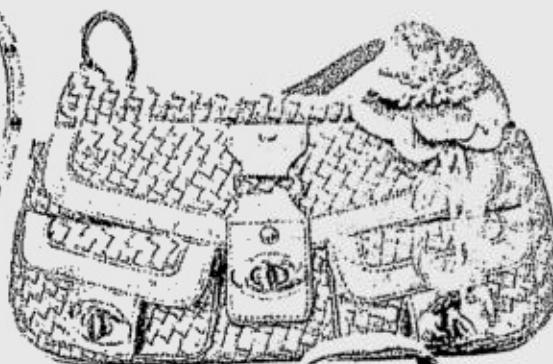
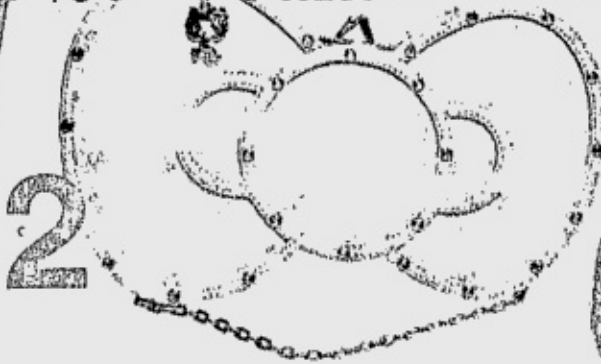
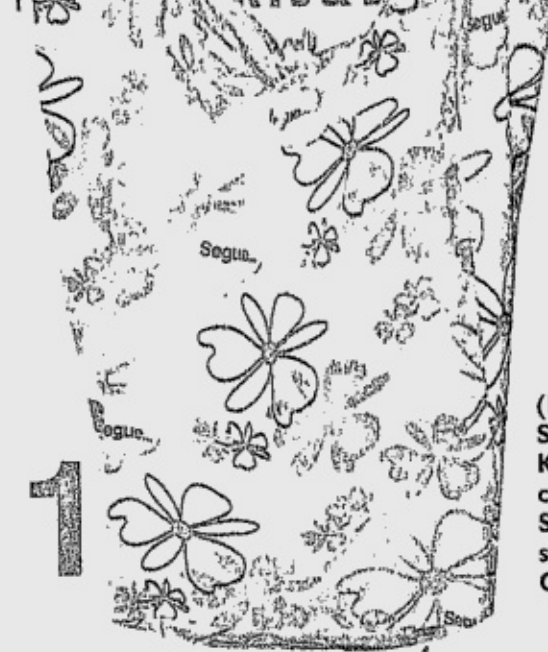


Entrance Donation of P100

LIFE STYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BEAUTY • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



(1) TO HAVE AND TO TOTE. Pink and green Seabloom tote bag, Segue, P1,450 (2) HANDHELD KITTY. Hello Kitty ribbon clutch with attachable chain handle, Gift Gate, P3,250 (3) SHIMMERY. Silver purse, Kashieca, P1,599 (4) SWEET. Rose suede bag, Segue, P4,350 (5) CARGOES AHOY. Cube cargo bags in pink and white, Iora, P1,890

PHOTOS BY BEIA FORMOSO

Window shopping Stylish storage space

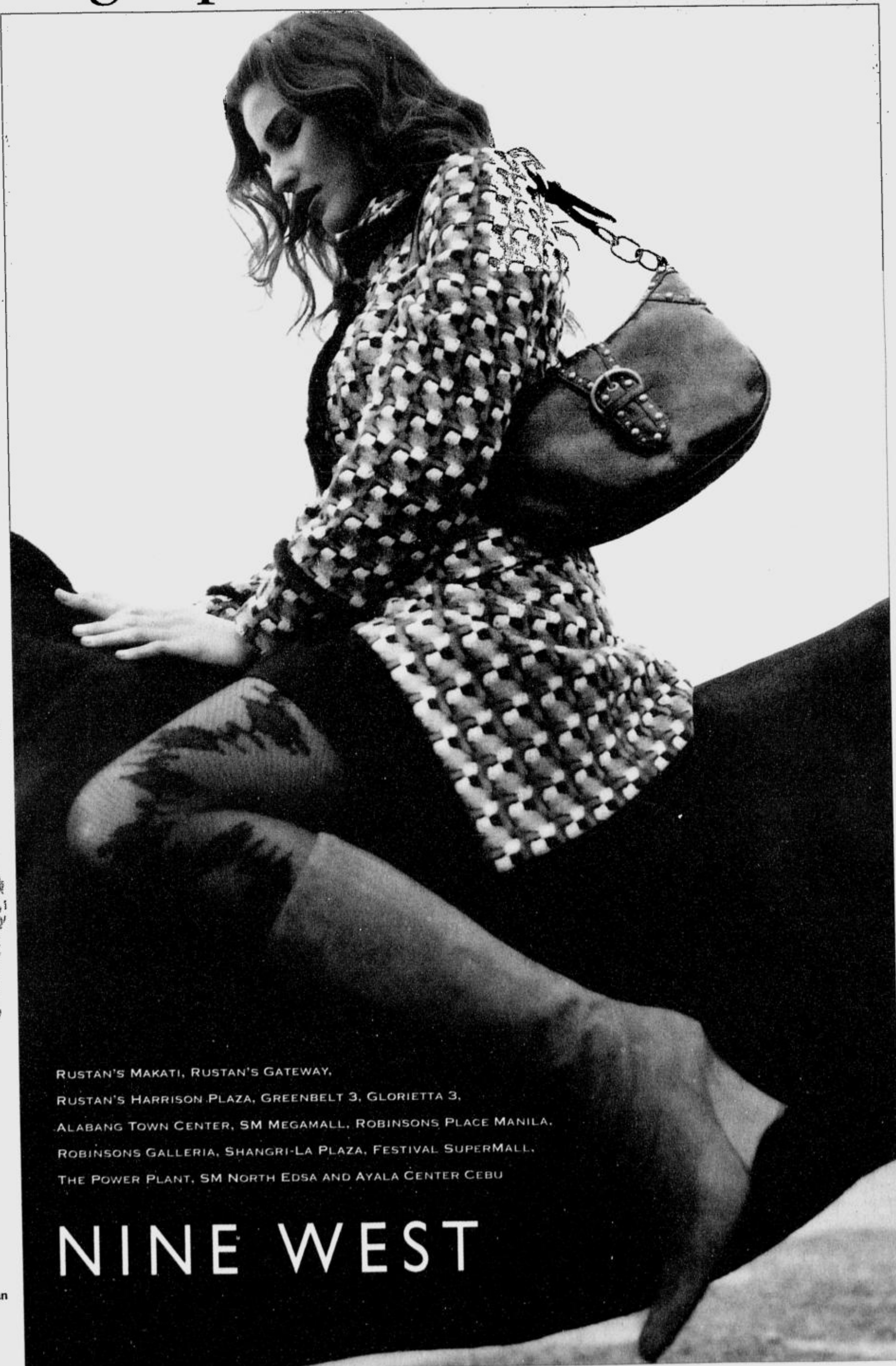
By Beia Formoso and Shirley Oh
Contributors

ONE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO many bags. That a bag is a necessity is a good reason to go out and get one, not that you need an excuse to go on a bag-shopping frenzy!

For those who revolve their getup and lifestyle around just one purse for long periods of time, the perfect find would be a sleek leather cargo bag. Any shape will do, long as it is roomy enough to fit your life. For gals who like to wear a different bag every day, scope out these eye-catching bags in shiny material that will leave heads turning wherever you go.

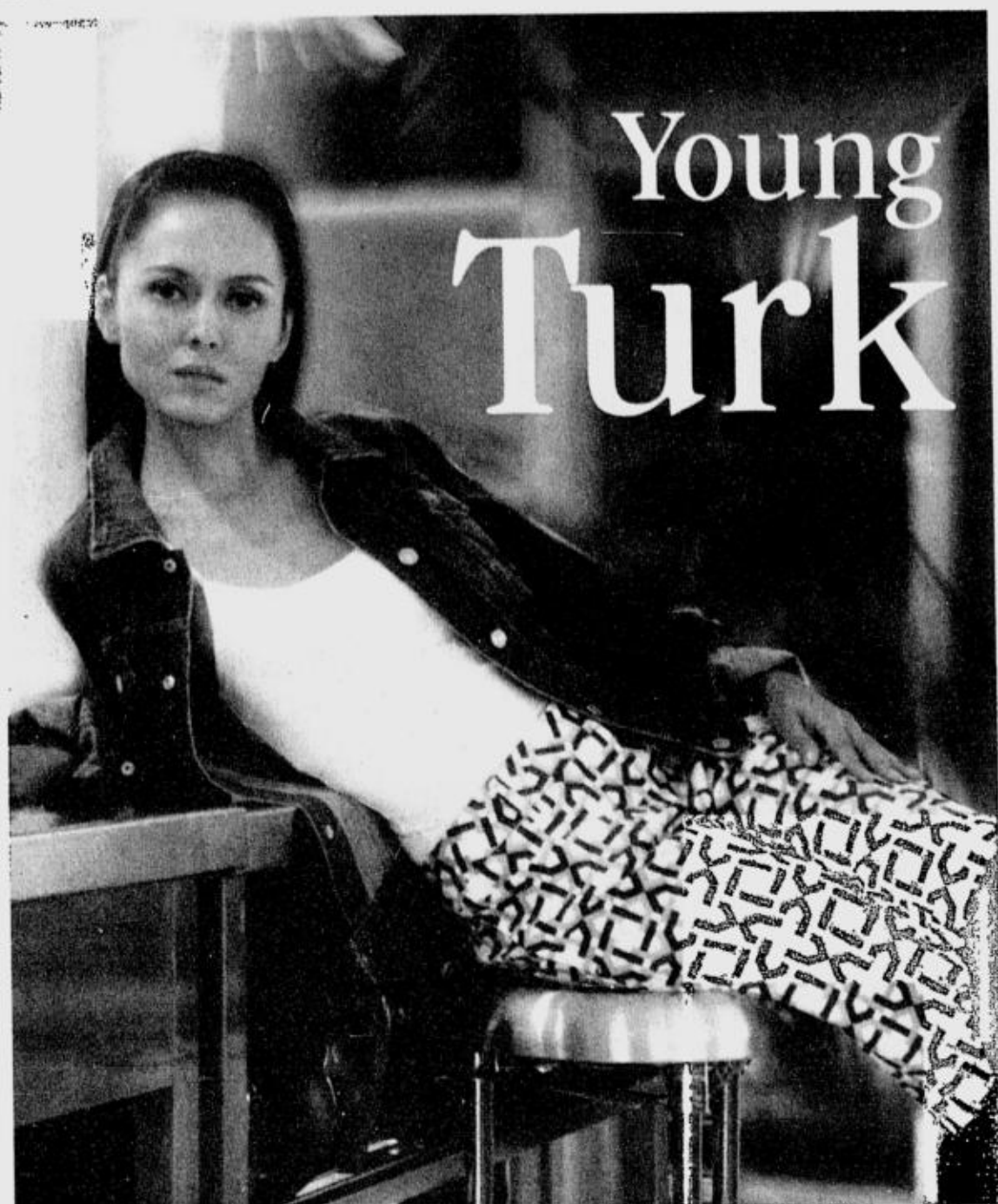


MORE SPACE MAXIMIZERS. (From top) Tan furry backpack with silver outline, Ms. Handbag Collection at SM, P299.50; black metallic bag, Bayo, P1,145; Hello Kitty leopard print bag, Gift Gate, P2,450; Teal cargo bag, Bayo, P1,145

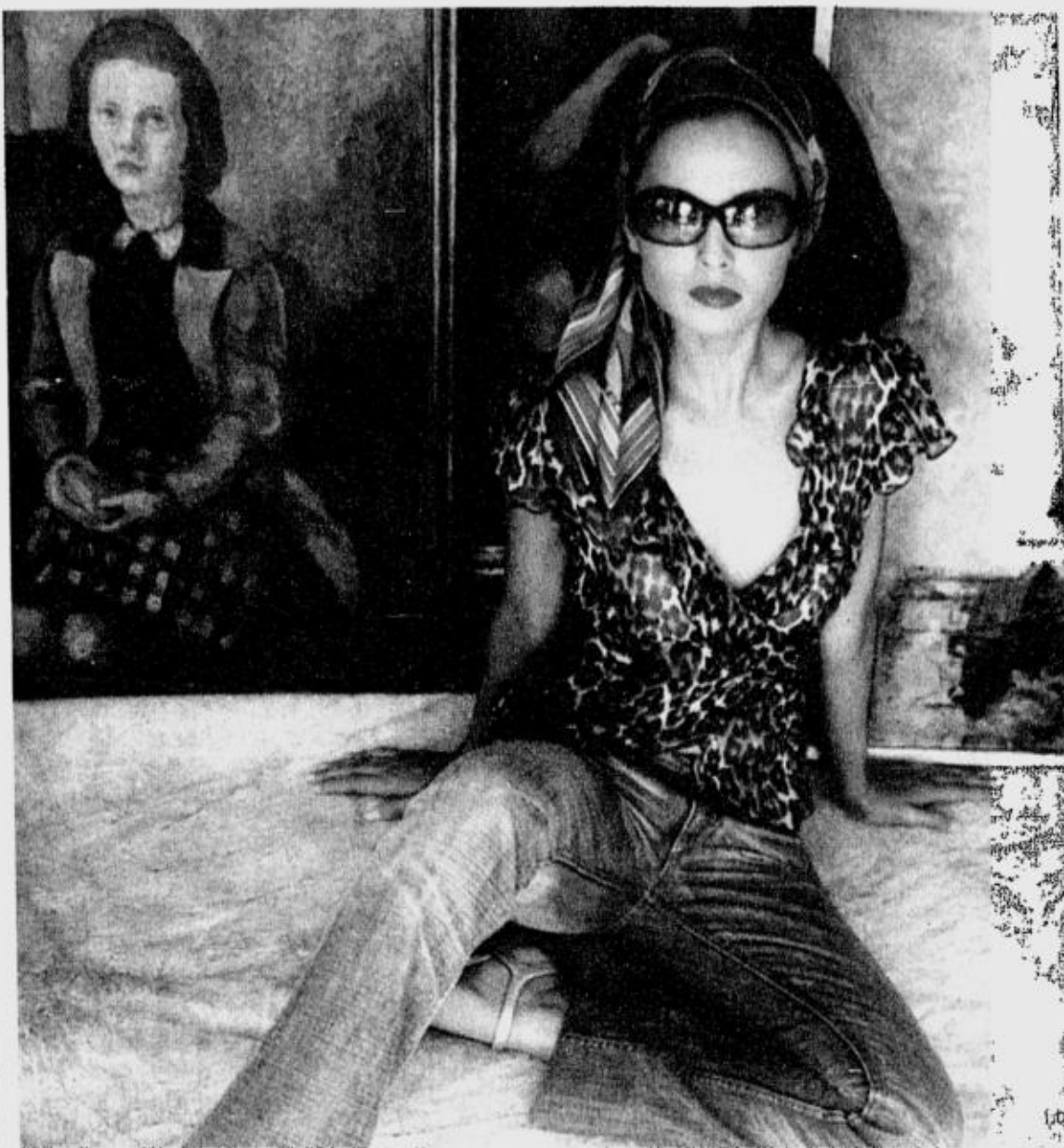


RUSTAN'S MAKATI, RUSTAN'S GATEWAY,
RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA, GREENBELT 3, GLORIETTA 3,
ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM MEGAMALL, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA,
ROBINSONS GALLERIA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL,
THE POWER PLANT, SM NORTH EDSA AND AYALA CENTER CEBU

NINE WEST



JUICY Couture denim jacket, bermuda crop pants



MULTI Vanna blouse, Seven For All Mankind jeans, kaleidoscope print scarf



WHISPER tank, Seven For All Mankind jeans

TRINA TURK'S SIGNATURE look is classic with a playful twist but is also sophisticated and sexy.

A native of Los Angeles, Trina was named California designer of the Year in 1998 and has since become one of the hottest West Coast designers. Creating her line from her cozy loft in LA's Downtown Arts District, she gathers her greatest inspirations from a melding of various influences, most notably from her Japanese mother from whom she first learned how to sew.

The melange of concepts—old movie-star elegance, Asian simplicity and woman-on-the-go—have evolved into the Trina Turk look.

Geared toward today's stylish, attractive and modern urban woman, Turk's easy-to-wear designs have been spotted on Hollywood stars Halle Berry, Julia Roberts, Meg Ryan, Renée Zellweger, Drew Barrymore, Sheryl Crow and Jennifer Aniston.

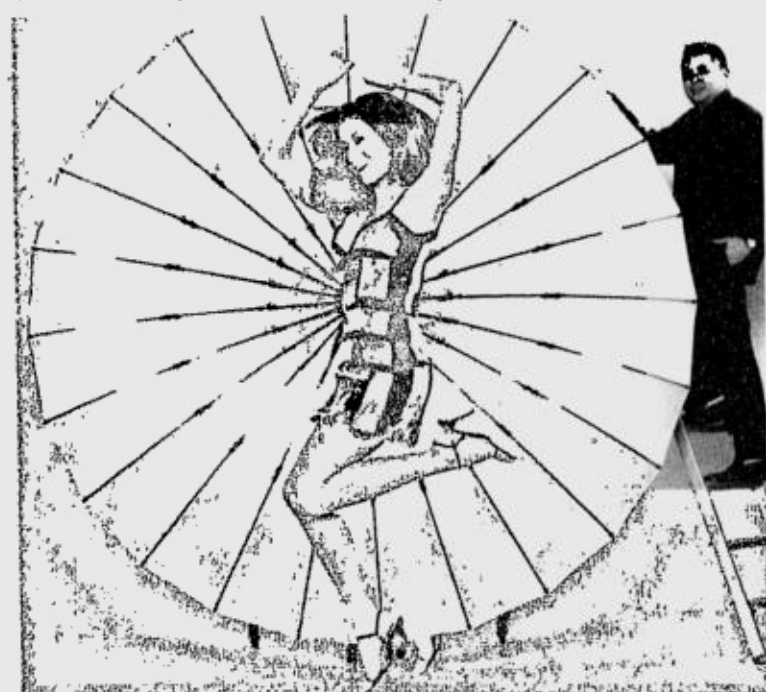
In the Philippines, Trina Turk's summer 2005 collection is available exclusively at Mix, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.



TRIANGLE top, Aria pants



PLUNGE swimsuit, Neely white crop pants



RHETT Eala: "My inspiration was modern art and the mirrorball."

Black is back—with a twist

THIS MONTH, Preview magazine is putting a modern Pinoy spin on the little black dress. Check out the inspiration behind each featured designer's creation:

Glan Romano: "This statement inspired me: 'Little can be tiny, black is infinity and a dress is a dress.' In this case, the wearer is the ultimate accessory."

Rajo Laurel: "My creation is inspired by a play on proportion and a study of contrasts. Black is

very severe so I wanted to soften it. I used a sheer tulle fitted top with a funnel neck dotted with tiny jet sequins matched with a voluminous skirt out of crushed organza."

Kate Torralba: "I wanted to do a little black dress that would take you anywhere—a dressy cocktail party, a casual get-together, or even a trip to the mall. It's a versatile, stylish, low-maintenance number. No need to iron, and fits neatly in a suitcase."

Patty Bustaquo: "I wanted the dress to be fun, flirty and sexy without the usual prescriptions, so

I designed a little black dress based on a modernized Edwardian costume—very romantic, ruffled neck and bubble skirt."

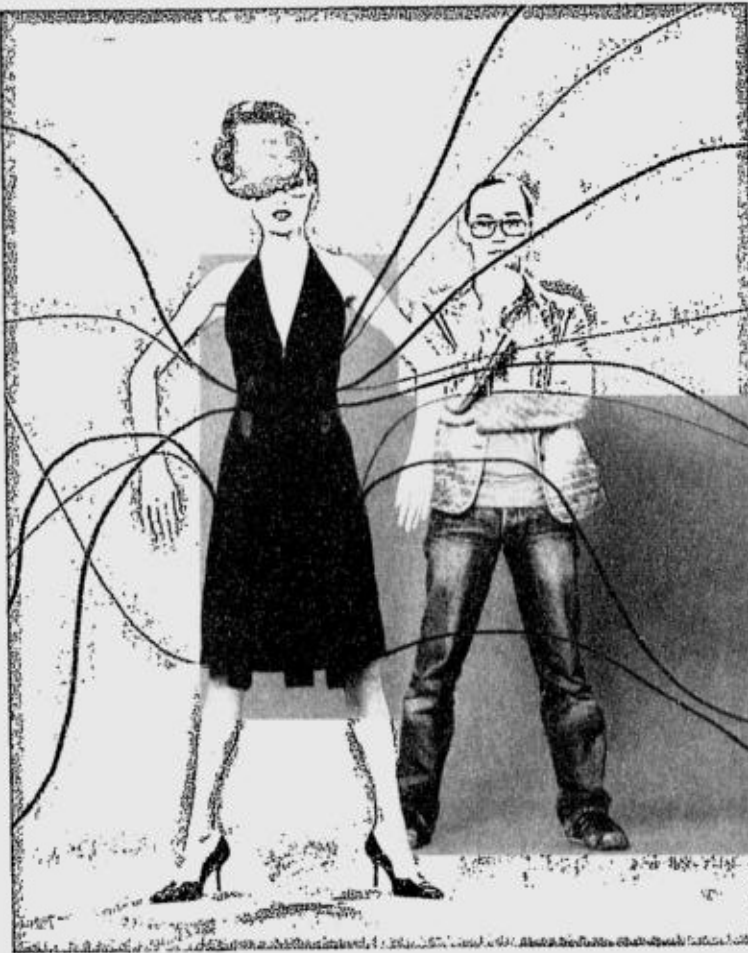
Joey Samson: "This piece is a bit more experimental compared to my trademark style. It has a twisted seam."

LZ Punzalan: "The little black dress is not just an ordinary piece but also something personal."

Louis Claparols: "I wanted to put a masculine feel to a feminine icon, so I used a mix of Chinese brocade and men's pinstripe fabric to achieve this look."

Dennis Lustico: "It's the little

IVARLUSKI Aseron: "My inspiration came from architecture, so I related a textured dress using three different fabrics, which is structural in design and highlighted with cutwork detail."



Opera goes haute couture



OPERANOW, A GALA concert featuring 30 of the country's finest classical singers performing excerpts from the operas, will also showcase contemporary and fresh costume designs on Sept. 14 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater.

Featured designers are Frederick Peralta, Eric Pineda, Pepsi Herrera, Edwin Tan, Maxie Cinco, Raoul Ramirez and Zenaida Gutierrez. They will present costume designs for Bizet's "Carmen," Saint-Saen's "Samson and Delilah," Verdi's "Aida" and "Rigoletto," Delibes' "Lakme," Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," Verdi's "La Traviata," Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and "La Boheme," Strauss' "Die Fledermaus," Mozart's "The Magic Flute," Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," Lehar's "The Land of Smiles," Rossini's "Barber of Seville," and De Leon's

"Noli Me Tangere."

The show is a collaboration between the Philippine Opera Company and the CCP. It will also feature the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Herminigildo Ranera. Floy Quintos directs.

Operanow is being presented in cooperation with the Yuchengco Group of Companies, Caffè Puccini, Rustan's Essences, E'coudray, Tower Records, Avon, NU 107 and 98.7 DZFE.

Tickets sell for P2,000, P1,500, P1,000, P800 and P500. Discounts are given to senior citizens and students. Call the Philippine Opera Company at 8958097 or TicketWorld at 8919999.

The concert is for the benefit of the Friends of Philippine Opera Foundation's audience development program and CRIBS Philippines Inc.



TIENDESITAS at Frontera Verde in Greenhills Shopping Center features a hypermart, medical center, auto mall and children's activity center. Twelve pavilions showcase fashion, furniture, antiques, food, plants and pets daily, 12 noon-12 midnight. Applications are still open for traders who wish to join Tiendesitas. In photo are Cathy Ko, COO Rex Drilon, Tourism Sec. Ace Durano and Joey Santos. Call 7210572.

Mall rewards shoppers

READERS of Discover Robinsons Malls, a quarterly shopping mag of Robinsons Malls, have the chance to win four shopping sprees in the ongoing Dream Package promo. They can win gift certificates from Sushiya, Wade Shoes, Color Stones, Ensembles, F&H, Robinsons Department Store and Trends Wedding Shoppe; hotel accommodations from Holiday Inn Galleria Manila; health care from Healthway Medical Clinics; free rides from Dreamscape. Call 6836355/ 6836100.

GOINGS ON

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP. Jim Paredes is conducting his 27th creativity workshop, "Tapping the Creative Universe (TCU)," 7-9 p.m., Sept. 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30, at 31 M. Jhocson St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Workshop fee is P5,000 for all six sessions, inclusive of coffee, tea and juice.

Certificates will not be awarded to anyone with more than one absence. Those who are interested can write to jimparedes@gmail.com or call 9290230.

SALE. Van Heusen, America's No. 1 dress shirt brand, is having a grand sale, with up to 70-percent off on selected items. Men who desire quality and comfortable clothes shouldn't miss this great opportunity. The sale is until Sept. 18 only. So rush to your nearest Van Heusen shops now!

SALE. The 12th National Arts and Antiques Show will be held today until Oct. 2 at Greenhills Shopping Complex.

SENIOR'S DAY. Star Group of Malls marks Grandparents Day with Swinging Seniors: A Ballroom Dancing Competition. Dance with grandma

and grandpa on Sept. 11 at the 2nd level activity area of Starmall Edsa; 4th level tradehall of Metropolis Star Alabang; and 2nd level activity hub of Starmall Las Piñas. Call 7181886/ 8503845/ 8725249.

DANCE. Teatro Flamenco y Baile Español brings to Concert at the Park on Sept. 11, 5 p.m. the art of flamenco and Spanish dancing in a program titled "Flamenco Suite." The event will be held at the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

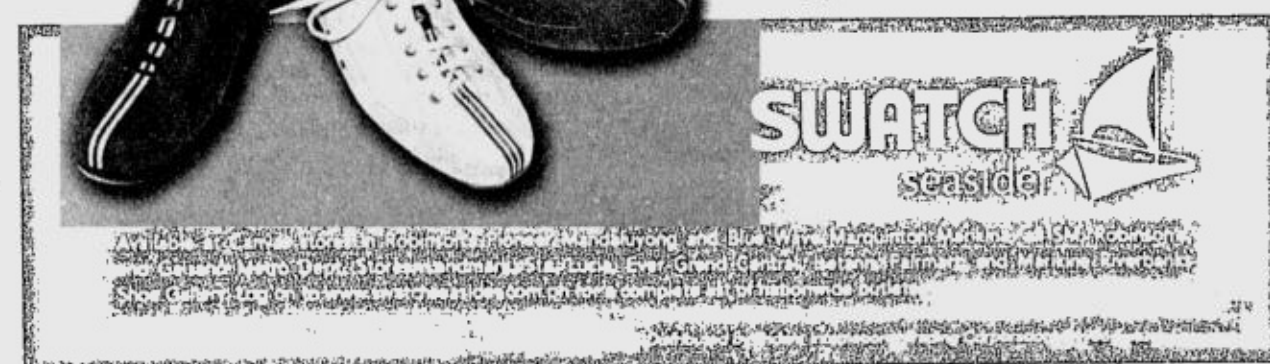
SEMINAR. The Postsecondary Education Network-International and School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde will hold a series of seminars on Filipino Sign Language on Sept. 16-17 at DLS-CSB campus, Taft, Manila. Call 5267441 to 46.

PROMO. Great Image offers packages as low as P79 and a limited edition of Great Image ballpen for free at its outlet in Legarda St., Mendiola, Manila. At its outlet in SM City San Lazaro, Great Image launches Gimme 5, wherein every customer is entitled to a free 8R portrait package once he purchases any of five photo packages. Promo runs until Sept. 30.

EXPO. CBV9 Media Master and the Philippine Daily Inquirer present PDI Foto Expo: Digital Weekend on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Rockwell Tent, Makati. Aside from sales and discounts, hourly raffle, promos and product trials, the expo will also hold career-enhancing seminar-workshops at The Loft. Fee for the workshop is P3,500. Deadline for registration is on Sept. 15. Admission to the expo and exhibit is free. Call Chito Vecina at 0917-8554195; Themes & Motifs, 3719783/ 4100032/ 6353267.



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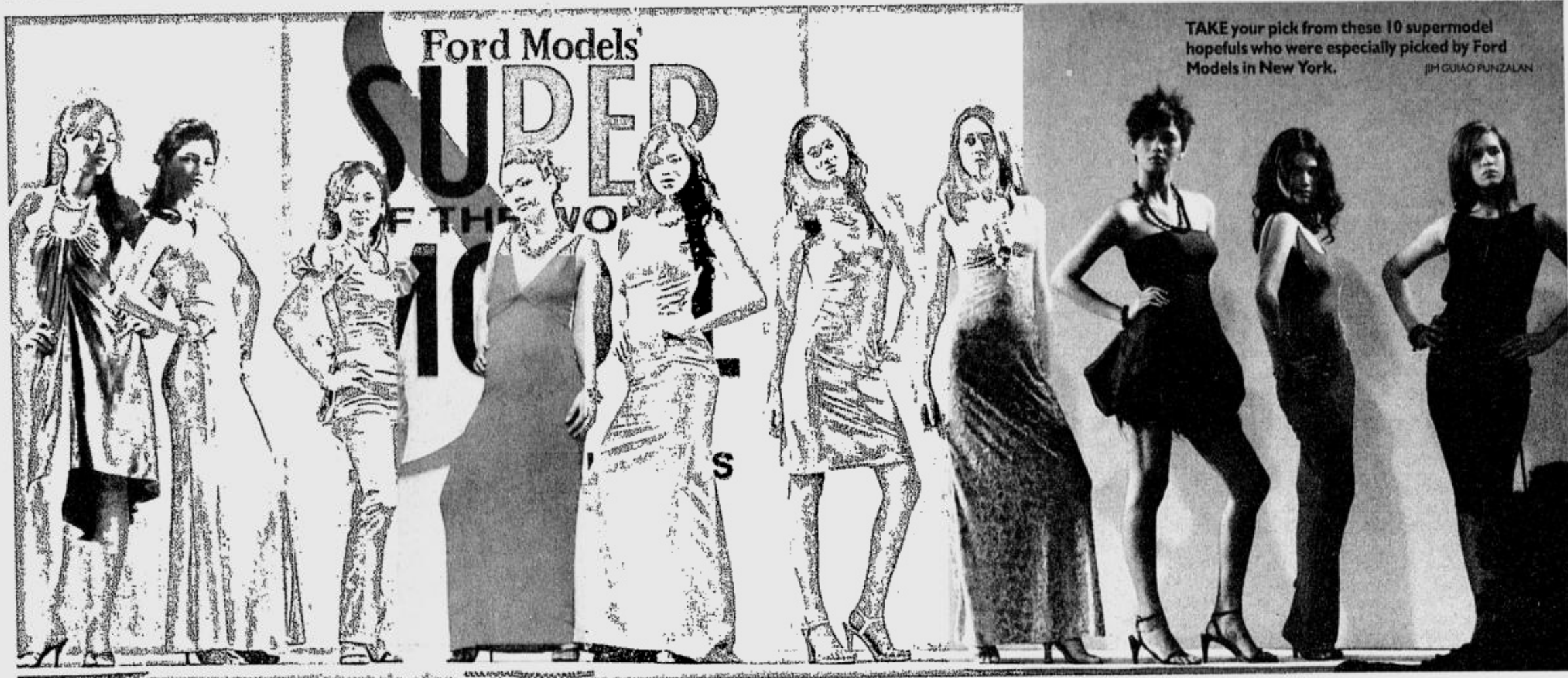
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BAYANTEL



TAKE your pick from these 10 supermodel hopefuls who were especially picked by Ford Models in New York.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

What it takes to be the next supermodel

FORD MODELS IS KNOWN TO BE ONE of the most prestigious modeling agencies in the world. They've produced the likes of Stephanie Seymour, Christie Brinkley, Patricia Viquez and Rachel Hunter, among others. They have also managed to provide the right face for countless editorial and advertising campaigns.

Through the decades, they've kept their stable of talents fresh and competitive through an extensive and comprehensive process known as the Ford Supermodel of the World Search. Supermodel hopefuls from all over the world flock to the finals in the hopes of bagging the title plus a coveted modeling contract.

In the late '80s and early '90s, the likes of Melanie Marquez, Tweetie de Leon and Lala Flores, some of Manila's most celebrated models, represented the country in the international tilt. Melanie Marquez, in fact, placed second to Canadian supermodel Monica. More recently, Verns Buckley, Meki Saldaña and Gayle Ong vied for the title.

Once again, the search is on for the next Philippine representative to this model search.

But what exactly does it take to be a potential supermodel? It seems that height, clear skin, a nice body and symmetrical face are sometimes not enough. A genuine supermodel definitely has to possess that elusive and in-

definable X-factor, a quality that makes her stand out amid a mob of flawlessly beautiful women.

Runway Productions has been handling the local search for six years now and to find a worthy representative, it conducts extensive screening sessions all over the Philippines. Besides this, it also receives e-mail applications in the thousands. Needless to say, a lot of weeding has to be done. But all applicants are granted their fair share of scrutiny because if truth be told, one never knows where the next supermodel will come from.

Thousands are trimmed down to hundreds and finally to the last 30 hopefuls. These girls,

besides having the above-mentioned attributes, must also have the right attitude. Meaning, they must exhibit professionalism and willingness to work hard to achieve their goals. The screening materials are then sent to New York where selections for the final 10 are made.

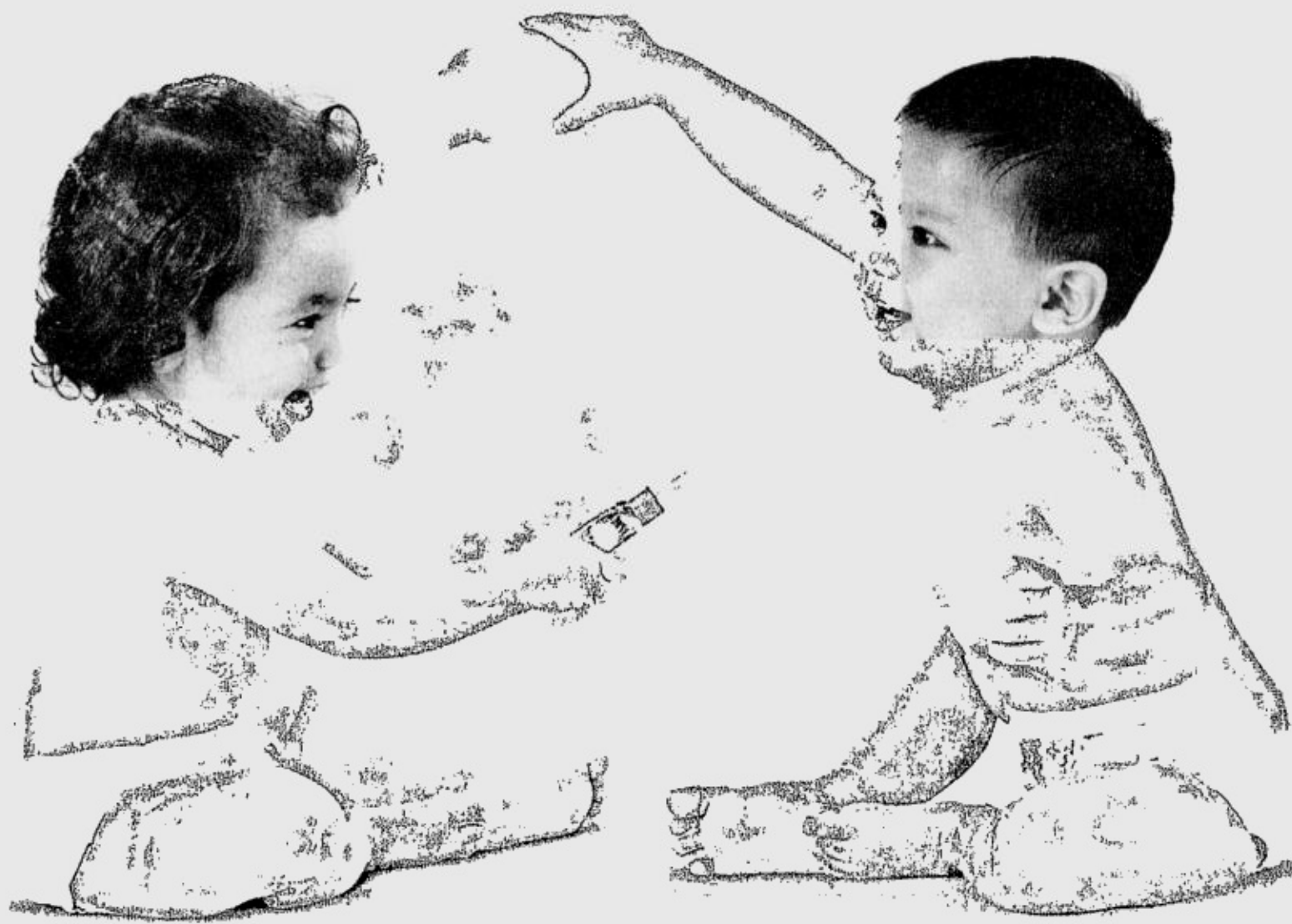
Thus far, Ford Models have chosen the final 10. And in November, one worthy aspirant will be named the Philippine supermodel. So, what does it take to be one? Check out the final 10 and find out.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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99 MADNESS SALE!

For 99 you can buy 3 bars Choco B'ng, or a dozen Rainbow Choco Rings, or 1 Big Bunch Munchkins (45 pieces).
Holds until Sept 17, 2005.
See posters for details.

Road-testing the latest cosmetics

AS early as July, I have been immersed in mega doses of my one true love—new makeup from the 2005 fall collection, which I'm allows me to try in advance for this column.

I've been road-testing the new colors and while I know that there will be more coming to me till October (oh, the anticipation!), I already have favorites picked out from two cosmetic lines.

I am inspired by Oscar Wilde's novel "The Portrait of Dorian Gray," which is about a man so beautiful he stays forever young while his age and corruption get reflected in his terrible portrait. This story has been a favorite of mine for a long time as Goth and romance fascinate me equally, and Dorian's wish is also mine.

Gorgeous chameleon Drew Barrymore is the face of the Rose Mystere Line. The usually bubbly Ms Barrymore projects gothic beauty that makes heads turn and leave men speechless in fascination. Her smoky eyes are in shades of pink and gray, and her cheeks are flushed from the black velvet-clad Vanity palette for lips and cheeks called Carnet de Velours (P2,595).

The other color set is the Verity palette, which has less dramatic and more romantic natural (read: wearable for day) shades.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



Lancôme takes into consideration the different personalities of women. We Asians, with our dark hair and eyes, can wear both dramatic and natural shades successfully without looking overkill. Our look is a natural canvas for drama and mystery.

Of course, I chose the Vanity palette for my eyes and cheeks.

And to achieve full mystery, I picked out the most pigmented Juicy Tubes shade called Exquisite Illusion, a fuchsia mauve that smells like freshly crushed rose petals. It is supposed to suit every skin tone. This is the first of its kind among the Juicy Tubes range; the color is almost opaque, like lipstick with megawatt shine.

Other good deals are:

- Juicy Bar Dessert Limited-edition Trio Juicy Tubes (P1,500). These yummy treats come in a box designed like those from French Patisserie and the flavors are inspired by pastries. Meringue Citron is a frosted pearl, Tartelette Framboise is a shimmery pink and Macaron Caramel a sheer golden brown, which satisfies my craving for chocolates and sweets without

ROAD-TESTING/D4



LANCÔME Fall Color Collection 2005

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Stages 1
4 to 24 months
Brushing starts with the first tooth. Baby-soft bristles massage gums. Non-slip grip is easy for Moms to handle.

Stages 2
2 to 4 year-olds
Kids' mouths can't open wide enough, so our brush head is narrow. Squishy grips help kids learn to brush with Winnie the Pooh.

Stages 3
5 to 7 year-olds
Kids tend to brush just one side of their teeth, so our cupped bristles surround each tooth. Power Tip™ bristles target back teeth. Features Buzz Lightyear or Disney Princesses.

Stages 4
8+ year-olds
First teeth, permanent teeth, gaps and tender gums need combination CrissCross™ and flared bristles to clean and massage. The perfect brush for young adults who aren't adults yet.



Kids told us they don't like to brush because it hurts, so all our Stages brushes have cushioned heads.

That's the thing about kids; they're always growing. So we made a line of toothbrushes that do too. New Oral-B® Stages™ is the only line of toothbrushes designed for the way kids teeth grow, their motor skills, even how they think. Only from Oral-B.® The brand more dentists use themselves.

Introducing
Oral-B
stages

THE FACES OF FASIO

The Science of Beauty in Motion

Youthful vibrance. Stunning appeal. And the smarts to go with it. These are what the Fasio ladies are made of.

And when it comes to beauty, they trust only Fasio.

Fasio is the no fuss make-up and skin care line designed for today's active young woman. Its long-lasting, waterproof formula stays on, long after the day is through. Letting you be at your most attractive even when you're at your most energetic.

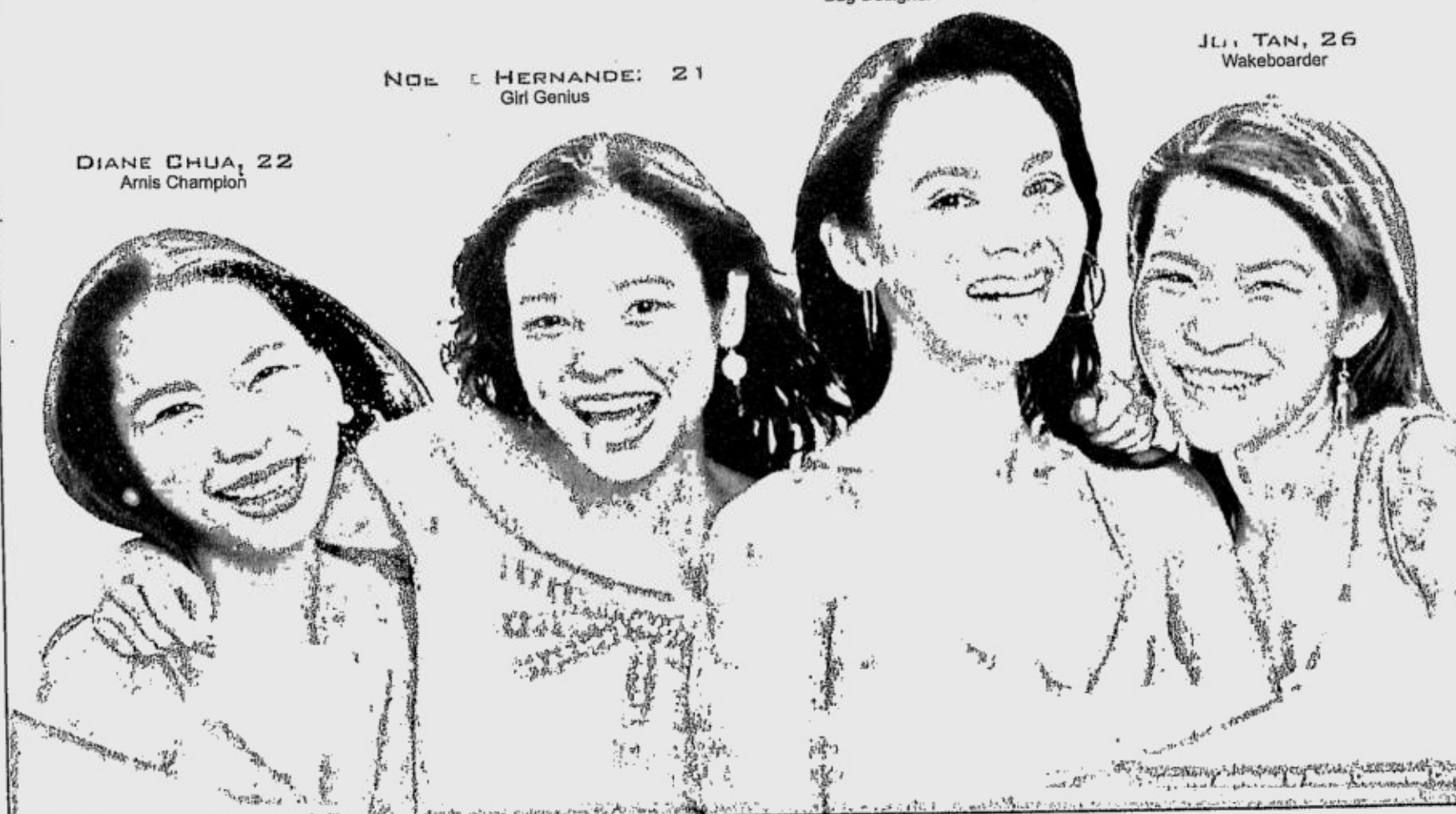
That's the power of Fasiology – the Science of Beauty in Motion.

AMINA ARANAZ 35
Bag Designer

JILL TAN, 26
Wakeboarder

NOEL C. HERNANDEZ 21
Girl Genius

DIANE CHUA, 22
Aerobics Champion



BEST ACTIVE
Fasio





IPE Cruz and May Muñoz



JACQUES Dupasquier and Celine Lopez



SHU Uemura Phil. chief makeup artist Xeng Zulueta and Mons Tantoco



KIEHL'S junior product manager Dione Cotoco and Louis Vuitton Phil. brand manager Rhea de Vera



PREVIEW mag's Liz Uy and Shu Uemura's newest makeup artist Jigs Mayuga



'IT' COUPLE. John Crespo and Savannah Lumen



SHU Uemura senior product manager Tessa Dragon, Nokia's Christina Trinidad (left) and Anabelle Co (right)



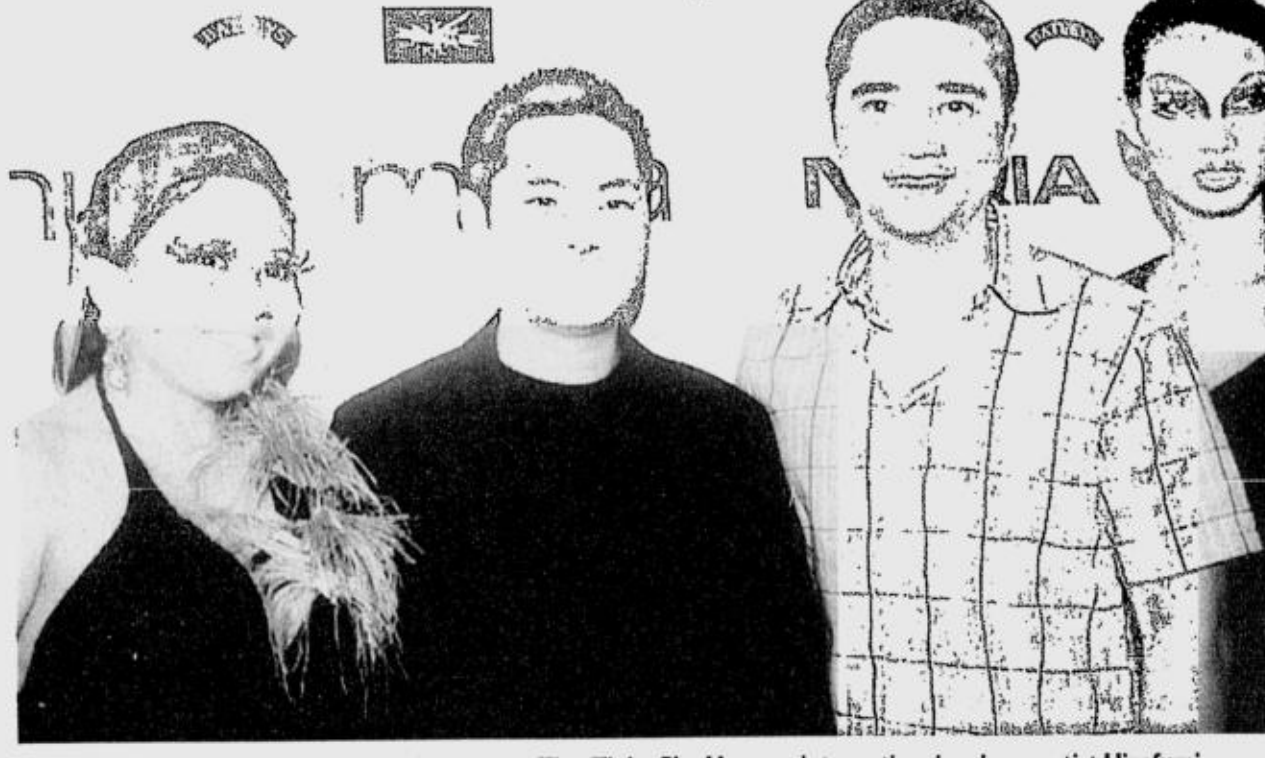
Big Fish's Domini Primero, Rustan's Mariko Jacinto and PLDT's David Nugent



AGOO Bengzon, Pauline Suaco-Juan of Preview and Astrud Crisologo



MTV's Anne Matoto, Abi Villaraza and Jill Gerodias



SHU Uemura and Kiehl's business unit manager Tina Tinio, SHU Uemura international makeup artist Hirofumi Kouno, Tom Valderrama of Smart Infinity, and model Ria Bolivar

Of masques, scents and bay arts



STEPHEN Ku, Isha Andaya, Jenni Epperson and Kat Cruz of INQUIRER Just Shop



TALENTED jewelry designer Ciara Marasigan



'F' LADY Daphne Oseña



GORGEOUS Hindy Weber Tantoco

WORLD-RENOWNED SHU Uemura's latest baby has been baptized Masquerade. Everyone now can't stop commenting about the new line's mysterious, glamorous and decadent Autumn/Winter Mode Makeup Collection, *palanggas*.

Even before I could bat an eyelash, it was crystal clear that Shu Uemura's close pals, Smart Infinity and Nokia, had put together another breakthrough event. This hip gang of three transformed the chi-chi Italian restaurant Caffè Maestro's upper deck into a Venetian masquerade lounge with tons of feathers, mask and pearls, in just about every corner, *palanggas*.

We were spoiled with Maestro's Italian yummys and hard-core booze like Bailey's and Smirnoff Vodka really got us on a roll, while live makeup demonstration by Shu Uemura's top international makeup artist, Hirofumi Kouno, who jetted in from Japan, presented the collection to the delight of the fashionable women present.

True to Shu Uemura's artistic roots, Mr. Kouno mesmerized us, while he created the "Masquerade" looks for two models.

Then, the fab Masquerade Glamorous Bar was unveiled. The guests were given false cool feather lashes and crystals to adorn their flirty eyes with.

Hot beauty and fashion junkies with a dash of metrosexual gents—all went home with giveaways of jeweled velvet cuffs and chokers and rhinestone cell-phone charms from Nokia, their Masquerade photograph taken by Kodak. They also took home skincare travel kits.

The success of the affair was a credit to Shu Uemura's business unit manager, Tina Tinio, her talented team—Tessa Dragon, Xeng Zulueta, Jigs Mayuga and Dione Cotoco—as well as to Smart Infinity's Tom Valderrama and Giselle Sia, and Nokia's Cristina Trinidad.

Perfumed affair

Moi witnessed Rustan's gathering of Cosmo Manila's *sociedad* for the *trés* exclusive and "scent-sational" gathering where a "scent-sing" game was held, *palanggas*.

The fun affair begun with men being "scent-

sored" by Rustan's glam brand team. The men of substance, willingly said "yes!" to a simple analysis of what scent they preferred. Based on the survey, the popular scents were Aramis; and my favorites, Inno Sotto's *Isim*, *l'Occitane*, and *Escada*.

I couldn't believe the men-worth-the-pursuit were there: Mandy Eduque, southern gent

Dennis Valdes, business tycoon Louie Ablaza, HSBC's Mr. Charmer Warner Manning, businessman Cesar Virtusio and CATS' hotshot Felix Ang.

Held at the ultra modern-looking Essences Rustan's (thanks to architect and interior designer Anton Mendoza), the affair saw the attendance of the chic perfumed set such as world traveler Mayenne Carmona, Ana Sobrepeña, adorable Julie Manning, glam society lady Mellie Ablaza and Myrna Borromeo, plus others like them too per-fumey to mention, *palanggas*.

Rustan's hotshot Rico Tantoco was the gracious host as always. The highlight of the night was when the women had to sniff and guess what scents their men were wearing. HSBC's first couple, Julie and Warner Manning, really knew each other's scent, so Julie wasted no time identifying Warner's *Isim* "Huit" scent.

Next came young couple Michelle and Caloy Tuason. *Après* a bit of sniffing, Michelle guessed Caloy's scent—Aramis "Life." If you haven't checked out Essences' awesome outlets or the wide range of cosmetics and toiletries of Rustan's stores, it's time to do so, dahlings.

All the mega brands are there, and as Rustan's brilliant Rhoda Campos proudly said, "You can get better prices here than anywhere else!"

The Wharf's art center

We drove south from bustling Makati to the serene and fresh Laguna Bay. There, at the Wharf of the upscale Brittany Bay community, we visited the newly opened Bay Center for Music and Arts (BCMA).

We met no less than the popular Sen. Manny Villar and his pretty-pretty daughter, Camille,

JULIE Manning tries to guess husband Warner's scent.

CALOY Tuason chooses his scent.



SEN. Manuel Villar, with daughter Camille (right), cut the ceremonial ribbon. BCMA owners Tito and Rica de los Angeles with invitees Jerry Navarette and (extreme right) Ma. Elena Posadas



METRO mag's Philip Cu-Unjieng, Mia Borromeo, art collector Patrick Reyno

Jerry Navarette and the incomparable Ma. Elena Posadas of the illustrious Posadas clan, who just happens to be a joint partner of Brittany Corp. for the Brittany Bay development project, *palanggas*.

I was told that Brittany was founded by savvy couple, Tito and Rica de los Angeles. The couple told us that BCMA offers "music, art and dance classes for kids and adults, under superb dance art and music professionals."

"This place is an educational center that features excellent facilities to engage student and make learning the arts fun and exciting," the couple said.

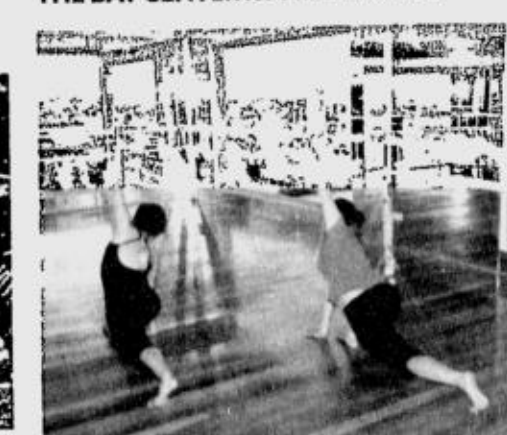
At BCMA you can learn to play the piano, hit the high notes, study guitar basics and soon, play the violin. It also holds lessons in ballet, jazz dance and street-dancing under break-dance champ, Kyxz Mendiola.

BCMA is just one of the fast-growing developments lining the Wharf, overlooking Laguna Bay. And check this out, the Wharf has some of the coolest watering holes south of busy-busy Makati such as Grappa's Ristorante, Dencio's Bar and Grill and Figaro Coffee Shop.

Call BCMA at 0915-9967582 or e-mail bcma@gmail.com.



THE BAY CENTER for Music and Arts



DANCE enthusiasts at the BCMA dance area



HOTSHOT president of Rustan's commercial corp. Rico Tantoco, society gals Letty Syquia and Helen Ong, and businessman Mandy Eduque



GOODBYE to quintessential networker Jun Ambas, shown here with Ernie Lopez, Bienvenido Tantoco Jr. and Annick Charriol

Fighting the good fight

WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT LIFE IS finite, but must friends and colleagues go one after the other? This year has been a rather sad one for Lifestyle as we lost, within months of one another, INQUIRER's Louie Camino, fashion mover Richard Tann, design icon Eli Pinto, fashion editor Noelle Boado, National Artists Ang Kiukok and Leonor Orosa Go-quingco, who was our indefatigable arts reviewer in the '80s.

Last Monday, lifestyle advertising stalwart Francisco "Jun" Ambas died after a brief battle with cancer. He was only 54.

Until his death, Jun was the highly popular president of Manprom Advertising who handled luxury brand accounts for Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) of the Tantoco clan, among others. He was a loyal friend to SSI head Anton Huang.

But it wasn't as an advertising man that we came to know Jun. We worked together in Metro magazine from 1989 to 2000; he was our vice president for sales. He helped build up the ad market for Metro starting in 1989 when it was opened by his father-in-law, Larry J. Cruz, the journalist and restaurateur behind the LJC Group of Restaurants, Café Adriatico included.

We had known Jun most of our adult life, as a fellow rat-racer, a fixture at Café Adriatico and a world-wise friend who made our staff work and play. He had the widest circle of friends, from radio industry leader Francis Lumen to director Floy Quintos to socialite Becky Garcia. To them, he brought wit, laughter, mischief and the wisdom and pragmatism of one who had not only survived life but also prevailed over it.

For Jun had cheated death in a big way years ago—a feat that baffled even medical experts in the US.

His was a life readers could learn and draw inspiration from. In 1983, at age 32 and at the peak of his career, Jun was diagnosed with advanced leukemia. He was then sales manager of the computer firm NCR and had just been chosen one of the 10 Outstanding Salesmen of the Philippines. He had also just gotten married to Lorna Cruz, Larry's daughter.

He recalled that time in an interview with Alya Honasan for a magazine article published years ago.

The newlyweds gathered their resources and hurried to the US for his treatment. At Miami's Baptist Hospital he had chemotherapy—his chest was opened and a tube inserted into his heart. While recuperating, he contracted an infection that affected his brain. He spent Christmas in the hospital as doctors mulled over what they should treat—leukemia or the infection.

To cut the story short, they used an experimental drug on him. His leukemia was arrested, but the brain infection left half of his body paralyzed. His case became well-known in the hospital.

One day, depressed as he underwent therapy, he saw a man being wheeled in. The man had only one arm and no legs. "I was so embarrassed," he told Alya. "That was the sign for me to fight again."

When he returned home, Jun did fight on, making a name for himself in marketing. He also had two kids, Kiko and Kookie. He was not only the quintessential salesperson, he was also the best networker and charmer there was.

Although I was exposed to him daily, I never really noticed he limped and had limited use of one side of his body—until we were sent by the office to Stanford University for a two-week stay-in course in publishing. It was a disability you wouldn't notice outright because his bravura camouflaged it.

Expectedly, at Stanford, he became the most popular in the group—physically disabled yet at the center of activities. Lecturers and participants knew him as Francisco from the Philippines, and he built a network of friends from Russia and Slovenia to Australia and Indonesia.

The man was a lot bigger and tougher than his physical disability. He was a survivor and a fighter, if ever I knew one. No tight situation could lock him in. And he fought his fight with a contagious sense of fun and aplomb.

That was why when a malignant growth was found in his bladder a few months ago, his friends believed he'd lick that one, too. We were wrong, apparently. He must have decided it was time for a rest. But not before showing us how to put up a good fight in life.

The wake is at Santuario de San Antonio until tonight. His remains will be cremated tomorrow, Saturday.

\$1 billion for tennis wear

It's been a week of sleepless nights. You guessed it—the US Open is on. Fashion rags note that the tennis championship in New

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma
Sioson San Juan



York has become a battle of the brands, and the hardcourt has turned into a fashion runway. The Williams sisters with their bling-bling—Venus in a glittery purple Reebok tank; Andy Roddick, who crashed out in the first round (what's the world coming to?), and the French players in Lacoste; and mostly everybody else in Nike.

"It" girl Maria Sharapova, however, is the runaway fashion winner in my book; her powder blue/yellow-trim Nike A-line dress should be a bestseller.

It's reported that tennis outfit sales amount to US\$1 billion a year.

The Philippines, however, is a different story. This is badminton country. At one dinner, Adidas' Andrew Garcia told us that the Philippines was the ninth biggest user of badminton shoes in the world.

Jun Ambas must have decided it was time for a rest

No Tricks. Just Treats!

Book & Buy a Minimum of
Three (3) Nights at the 16th
Philippine TravelMart at the
SM Megamall from Sept 9 to
11, 2005 and get one (1) FREE
Halloween Night with Breakfast!

Halloween Rate: Three (3) Nights
Twin Sharing: Php 6,998 net/person
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BabyTimes

BabyTimes

Sept. 1, 2005

baby sale

up to **50% OFF** on great choices

FREE 3pc BABY WASHCLOTH
Sept. 1-15

FREE CARRY-ALL BAG
Sept. 16-Oct. 2

FREE BABY OUTFIT SET
Infant's WEAR DEPT.

BABY COMPANY



DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA
MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4439, Series of 2005

'BEST COPY AVAILABLE'

Road-testing the latest cosmetics



CLINIQUE Fall 2005 Collection

making me fat.

• The three variants of mascara: Flexencils (length and curl), Amplicils (volume and definition) and Hypnose (maximum volume without clumping) have a special treat for eyelash lovers.

If you buy their mascara in the special box for the regular price of P1,895, you get a small Bifacil eye makeup remover and eye shadow duo mini for free.

At the launch of its fall collection, we were happy to see that Clinique has revamped its packaging from green celadon to silver and clear, but with the Clinique personal touch for practical and minimalist girls in mind.

The collection calls for eyes in the shades of plums—from plum to violet and silvery mauve. I am glad because Filipinas can wear plum effortlessly without looking clownish. It's an alternative to the usual black or gray smoky eyes because the palette colors are not loud but very wearable.

My assembled top pick kit from Clinique:

• Plum Seduction Color Surge Eye Shad-

ow Quad—which comes with a sponge-tip applicator and small eye shadow brush—glides on creamy, but stays put the whole day without creasing.

• Iced Lotus Blushing Powder is a shimmering natural pink for light to medium skin tones. This blush is extra special because you can actually use the brush that comes with it unlike other packaged brushes with blusher, this one is wide, lush, soft and slant-tipped for contour and idiot-proof application. You won't need a separate brush to lug around.

• Kohl Shaper for eyes in Black Amethyst gives dramatic color you can smudge for a sexier evening finish. The wonderful thing about this, though, is that its cover has a built-in sharpener designed only for the Clinique kohl it comes with. There will be no more days of panic because your pencil is flat down and you lost the sharpener.

• Color Surge Butter Shine Lipstick in First Love is a natural pink lip shade. This particular line is a godsend to those who have to apply lip balm under lipstick because their lips are ultra

dry. Instead of the old textured silver flute, the packaging for this looks like the stem of a bamboo or a fortune plant. Mind its name though, as it really is as soft as a stick of butter so do not roll up and expose too much or it will break off. Just let a tiny bit protrude and apply on lips then roll back immediately. My lips feel fantastic even when the lipstick is long gone.

• Color Surge Impossibly Glossy (IG) Lip Gloss in Beach Bunny is a highly pigmented, very glossy but not sticky gloss that comes in a slim tube with slant-tipped applicator. Want patent-leather shine? Reach for IG. Want moisturized satin finish? Reach for Butter Shine.

E-mail the author at kinnyssalas@yahoo.com

Who's the new B.U.M. Girl?

FIND OUT NOW! SEE IT FIRST!

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

Wish

mom and daddy
Don't say a word
We'll take you both out
to another world

A world of joys
you've never seen
Glorietta is its name
And it has everything

Shoes and bags for mom
and some fancy rings
Belts and pants for daddy
and a racket to swing

And if we could
have our wish
you both will know
we want to give you all
for we love you so

AYALACENTER
GLORIETTA
AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



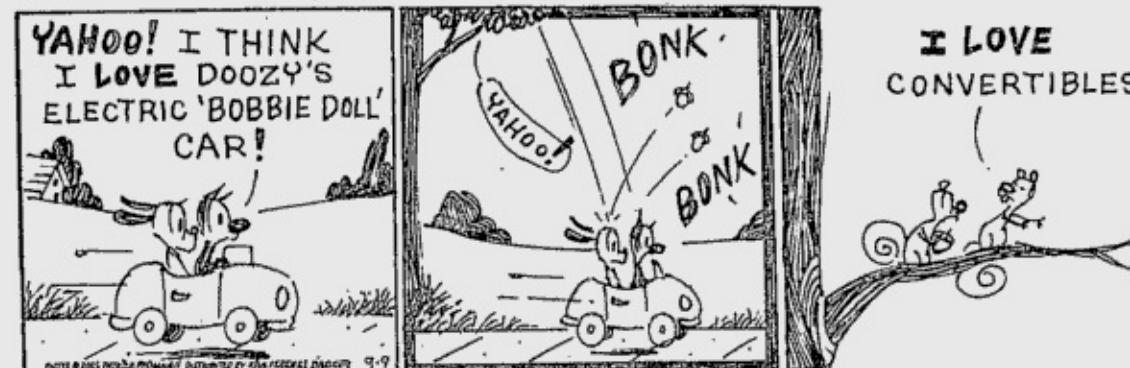
BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



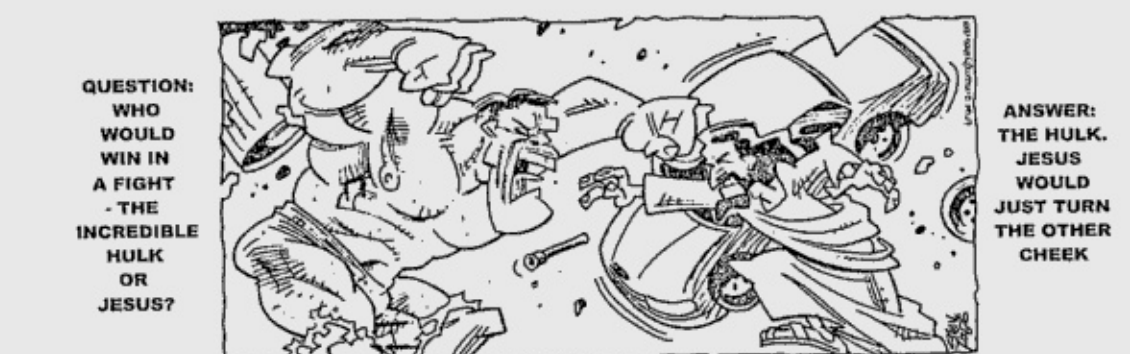
ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're multitasked and intelligent; nevertheless, you're often underestimated by others. In part, this is due to your need for privacy, but you're also a complex individual. You have your finger on the pulse of society. You know what's happening. Challenges intrigue you. Expect increased solitude this year to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Michael Keaton, actor; Adam Sandler, actor; Otis Redding, singer/songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have exciting plans that will involve spending money in the near future. Today is not the day to sign on the bottom line, however. Wait until tomorrow or next week.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Shortages and delays are likely at work today. Staff shortages or an overrun on materials will cause delays. Just cope as best you can. (These things happen.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Misunderstandings with parents, teachers and authority figures are likely today. Worse yet, you're tempted to mouth off. Even if you think you're justified in doing so, don't. You'll regret it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the classic setup for misunderstandings and aggressive conversations with others. You're shooting from the hip. Don't take the bait. Resist the urge to suddenly tell somebody off. (Zip your lip.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This can be a highly creative day for you! You find it easy to be original and think out of the box. Parents must be vigilant with children. Guard against fire hazards.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Be careful when walking, driving or doing daily activities. This is a very poor day to shop or make important purchases.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The money part of your chart is activated today; nevertheless, this is a poor day to make important financial decisions. Whatever you try to initiate will not turn out as you expect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with partners and close friends. You're very tempted to quarrel or disagree with others. This will get you nowhere. Postpone these talks until Monday. (Much better day!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your judgment at work is a bit off today. Avoid making important decisions. Do not make important commitments. Try to wait until Monday, when things will be much smoother.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Just stay on the surface of discussions with friends and groups today. Keep the conversation light. This is not a good day to get into anything in a heavy way.

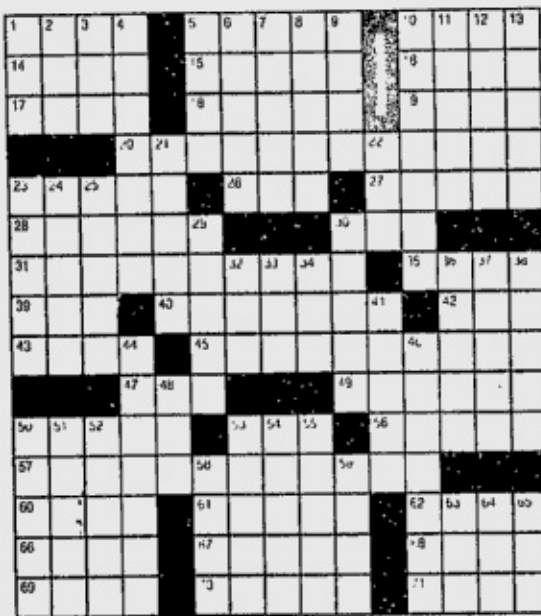
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Definitely avoid arguments and disagreements with bosses or authority figures. This is your opportunity to practice patience.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans might be canceled today. This is not a good day to make reservations or definite plans. Just get your information; wait until Monday to take solid action.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Arm
- "The Planets" composer
- Mine products
- Rebuke to Brutus
- Baker or Ekberg
- Took off
- Romanov title
- Slander in print
- "Peter Pan" dog
- Eliminate tan at the barbershop?
- Odor
- Short snooze
- Plant pest
- Bug
- Artist's rep.
- The sky, certainly?
- Words of discovery
- Atlanta-based health agcy.
- Makes tidy
- Small snake
- William of "The Greatest American Hero"
- Something to see, such as purple?
- Those elected
- Oklahoman
- Man from Muscat
- Columbus sch.
- Dame's leader?
- Blue-ribbed?
- Correct text
- Tropical porch
- Cash advance
- Missile garage?
- Nevers or Kovacs
- Compel
- Bridge seat
- Phobias
- Get together



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/9/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

OTIS TRIP EMO TE
PURL HORA NAVES
ABOOK ISASUCCESS
HANGERS TRS RTE
ALT EEOG CLAN
WHEN PEOPLE WHO
HAASENS KEAIS
OUR INSISTS DEW
ALTON LEA PERI
HAVENOTREADIT
STIR VON TBS
EEN LAD SNACKED
PRETEND THEY HAVE
INSET ERAS ALEE
ASSET DADS LEND

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- Thief
- Fifty percent
- Edible bulb
- Zodiac sign
- Nearly vertical
- Body powder
- Confess
- Altair
- Boredom
- RBI's and ERAs
- Football great
- Merlin
- Jazz piece
- Hovel
- Mia maker
- Belch
- Proofreader's marks
- "Del" (Lamb of God)
- I thought so!
- Brooklyn follower
- Ship-shaped clock
- Lacks
- Basketry willow
- Tire in a trunk
- Teatime treat
- Wee babe
- Gangster
- Zip
- Compulent
- News services
- Seed covers
- One of Chicago's airports
- Medicinal plant
- Amer. fliers
- Musical notation
- Connections
- Mineral in the raw
- Vital statistic
- Bottom-line profit

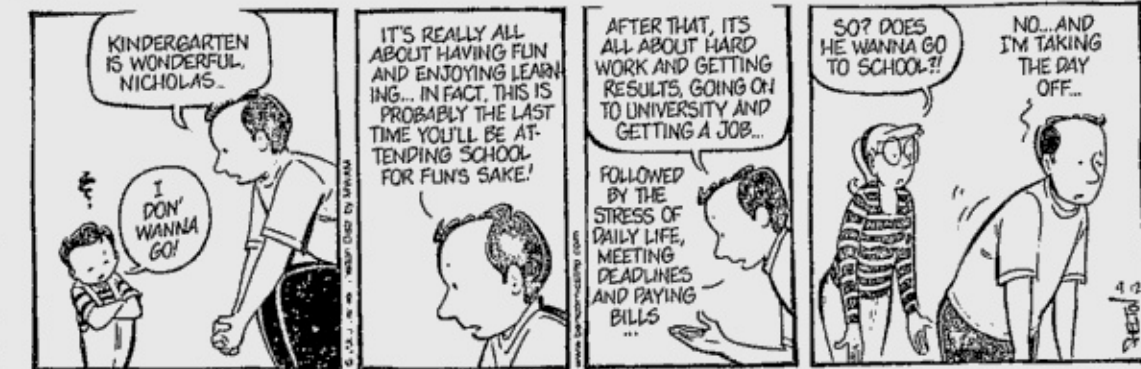
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING





BOHO chic can be light and airy...



...OR brimming with fitted and cropped pieces



Rampagingly chic

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BOHEMIAN CHIC IN THE form of printed skirts, Capri pants and beaded blouses in delicate fabrics: these continue to rule the retail fashion scene as Citi-Fashion Specialty Stores Inc. recently unveiled its latest acquisition in a fashion show in Glorietta.

New York-based brand Rampage, arguably one of the hottest RTW labels for pretty young things in the United States these days, joins the ranks of other foreign brands exclusively carried locally by CSSI, such as British India, Esprit, Nafnaf and U2. CSSI, of course, is better known to local fashionistas as Cinderella.

Loose tops came either in bright, solid colors such as hot pink, orange, turquoise and lime green or printed, crinkled, knitted and embroidered for added impact. A number of draped items were made of soft fabrics such as chiffon and georgette. Sleeveless blouses with plunging necklines were mostly cut on the empire and spruced up with piles upon piles of beaded necklaces, charm bracelets and chunky belts.

To complement the look, Cinderella also carries bags, shades, jeans and shoes also from Rampage. Savvy fashionistas can also mix and match Rampage with the store's other brands.

Despite unstable times, Richie Santos, CSSI's VP for merchandising, is optimistic that Filipinas will readily warm up to the brand like their fashionable sisters in America, Mexico, Latin America, the Middle East and Thailand. This development makes the Philippines the second country in Asia after Thailand to carry the brand.

Santos, who negotiated for Rampage's exclusive distribution in the Philippines, learned of the brand and how popular it is among young women via his two sisters. He did further research to validate his observations.

Extensive

"Every time we traveled to the United States," he says, "one of the first things they do was to check out the latest items from Rampage. Not only did my sisters find Rampage fashionable, they found the brand's range of styles quite extensive."

Apart from its 70 or so free-standing stores, Rampage items are available in nearly 1,400 department stores all over the US—from ubiquitous Macy's to upscale Nordstrom. Britney Spears and Victoria Beckham are among the brand's more famous fans.

Santos plans to follow the same marketing thrust introduced by Rampage founder and chief merchandiser Larry Hansel in 1982. For starters, Cinderella has started stocking its three branches (a fourth branch is set to open at the Mall of Asia before the year ends) with more styles and in smaller quantities.

"Since Rampage is a high-fashion brand, you certainly don't want to see someone else wearing the same outfit in a party," he says.

At the same time, CSSI has started refurbishing its stores by giving each brand a distinct identity through such tangibles as interiors, partitions and signage. Although spaces are still adjoined to each other as one store, each brand now has a separate entrance.

"Rampage is totally different from U2 and Esprit," he says. "We made sure each brand is distinct from one another. They're not likely to cancel each other out."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

FITTED and cropped jackets with shorts go well with close, high-heeled shoes.

A New York brand comes to the Philippines to spice up the fashion scene



CROPPED pants and tank tops are here to stay.



KNITTED top with jeans for the warm yet rainy season



INDIAN influences, in the form of beaded cotton tops, continue to rule.



Sept 10-11

Retro Jam Fest

Sept. 10 • 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
2/L Carousel Court

Enjoy fresh renditions of the oldies as 8 youth bands perform hits from the 40's and 50's.

Luv U Lolo

Sept. 11 • 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Remind your grandparents how much you love them by watching this special Grandparents' Day presentation.

Fun with Lolo & Lola

Sept. 11 • 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Bond with Lolo & Lola on their special day! Choose from an assortment of activities like Crafts, Magic Shows, Storytelling and a whole lot more!

Groovy Grandparents Jam

Sept. 11 • 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Have your grandparents rocking to the beat as 220G and Nyoy Volante electrify the afternoon with a special performance!

I love you po...

Sept. 11 • 1:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Express your love through a song. Dedicate one to Lolo & Lola and wait for it to run on The Edge Radio & within the Supermall!

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BOSS Hugo
Boss Fall/
Winter
Collection 2005



Proportion is key to new collection



MODERN sophistication is the inspiration behind the new collection of Boss Hugo Boss.

One-button and two-button slimline suits are the key styles, with the three-piece suit making a comeback. Proportions are rethought this season with a shorter jacket length and slightly longer sleeve.

To play up proportion, there are wider lapels, bolder stitching and graphic micro-checks for shirts.

There's a revival of checks and other English-style fabrics such

as houndstooth and herringbone designs, particularly for sports jackets. The checks and tweeds may have all the familiarity of vintage wardrobe, but the pieces in the collection are super-soft, brushed and lightweight.

The new jackets include half-lined and semi-structured styles to wear with turtlenecks and jeans for relaxed aesthetics. Check shirts are shaped and darted, featuring contrast fabrics.

Colors for tailoring are black, dark gray, brown and blue, with softer misty shades of purple and mauve for shirts and knitwear. For sports jackets,

tones of brown and camel dominate.

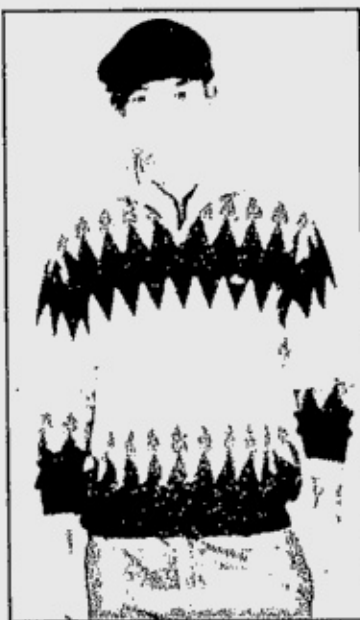
Coats provide an opportunity for surprises: trench coats fitted and reworked in wool, duffel coats smartened up and redesigned in technical fabrics and fur-lined.

Double-face and raw-cut leather jackets are other highlights of the season.

For dressed-up sportswear, cashmere motorcycle jackets or quilted vests are an ideal choice.

Boss Hugo Boss is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. The boutique is at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

Lacoste
creative
director
Christophe
Lemaire
goes
Nouveau
Brit Casual



Relaxed, sporty elegance

FOR AUTUMN/WINTER 2005-06, Lacoste creative director Christophe Lemaire took as his inspiration the relaxed elegance of the 1930s European sporting lifestyle and the strong graphic elements of the Art Deco movement.

"I imagined what Rene Lacoste would wear if he were to take a weekend trip to England in the fall with his friends," Lemaire explains. "Nouveau Brit Casual, if you like."

First, Lemaire explored the influences of both gold and cricket on modern wardrobes. The signature print of the season for Lacoste is Prince de Galles in fresh colorways. Lemaire proposes a head-to-toe look for men, beginning with trousers, a shirt, matching necktie and blouson, topped off with a hunting cap—the ideal outfit for on and off the green.

For women, the same Prince de Galles

check comes in a similar double-breasted pea coat and matching "bob" hat that pair nicely with cropped trousers or a fluid pique jersey skirt. Soft baby alpaca becomes the material of choice for a contemporary take on the classic cricket sweater, while a Surrealistic window-pane check and Art Deco argyle weave are ideal when paired with Lemaire's updated and over-dyed version of the traditional golfing checked chinos in cotton gabardine.

Beige, brown and black anchor the color range of this collection, which is peppered with warm shades of yellow like brass and thatch for guys and flashes of forest-green for girls.

Lacoste is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lacoste stores are at Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Greenbelt 3, The Store-Grand Boulevard Hotel, Corte de las Palmas Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Makati.

